

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-I WORLD / A30

RP wins 2 top awards in film fest in Singapore

Berlusconi to quit as Italian PM



■ BUSINESS/B7

'Tiangge' problem may be mall owners' creation



LIFESTYLE/CI

Fred Baldemor's warm' sculptures

Vatican leader calls for 'Da Vinci' boycott

ROME—A VATICAN OFFICIAL ON FRIDAY CALLED for a boycott of the coming "The Da Vinci Code" film, saying it contained "slanderous" offenses against Christianity that would have provoked a worldwide revolt had they been directed against Islam or the Holocaust, an Italian news agency reported.

Msgr. Angelo Amato-Pope Benedict XVI's former No. 2 man when Benedict was head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith-made the

Monday, May 1, 2006

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 142 P18

Church experts tell brides: No backless gowns, please

By Christian V. Esguerra

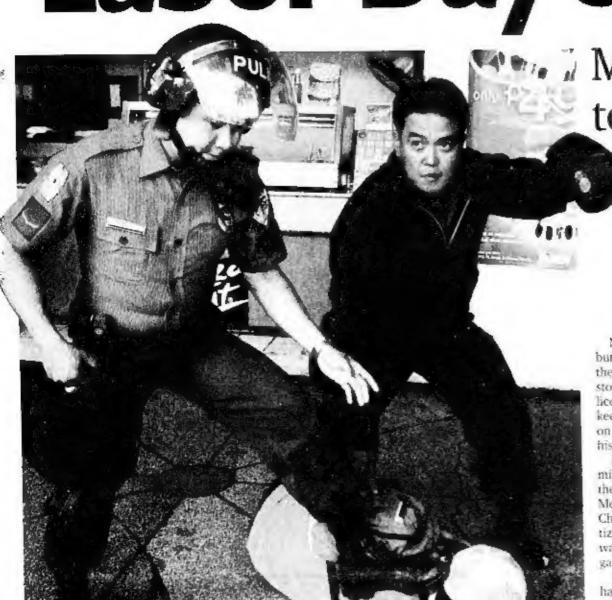
BRIDES ARE AGAIN REminded to keep those backless and spagnetti-strapped gowns out of

Church experts who

CHURCH/ AZ3



Labor Day showdown



POLICEMEN pin down Ronald Crisologo, a militant from Southern Tagalog, outside a mall near the Edsa Shrine where protesters held a rally on the eve of the Labor Day commemoration. Crisologo was arrested after protesters ran after a policeman who took their banners, but he was later released.

Militant groups vow to retake Mendiola

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

SCORES OF MILITANTS TRIED TO INVADE the Edsa Shrine yesterday, but police drove them back, giving them a foretaste of what could happen if they pushed forward with their plan to retake Mendiola Bridge in Labor Day protests today.

No one was hurt in the scuffles but traffic was snarled for hours, the glass door of a nearby drugstore was shattered, and two policemen were seen on television keeping a protester immobilized on the ground by pinning him on his nape with their feet.

Brushing aside police appeals, militant leaders vowed to bring their protests today to historic Mendiola-now called the Don Chino Roces Bridge-to dramatize their demand for higher wages and President Macapagal-Arroyo's removal from office.

For demonstrators, the bridge has been a historic symbol of resistance to unpopular governments. Protesting farmers, students and others have been killed around Mendiola since the reessive days of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

Police have barred railies around the bridge and, during past demonstrations, set up barbed wire and other barricades, including container vans, to block any attempts by ralliers to get near the Palace.

"We will definitely try to reach Mendiola," said Carl Ala, spokesperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. But he added: "We will push to get to Mendiola, but not to the extent that we would end up harting people." The protesters have designated

various assembly points around the capital prior to linking up at the Liwasang Bonifacio and Plaza Miranda in Manila later in the We're mobilizing around

30,000. That's just Bayan forces,

Tr's up to them if they will go there (Mendiola)," the President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said in a phone interview. Defensor said that at press

time, there was "no solid th against the administration. "But we're ready," he said.

Both the military and the national police placed their forces around Metro Manila on full

"You don't want us to be caught

Workers warned on agenda of middle class

By Amando Doronila

THE WORKING CLASS SHOULD be marching today to push their demand for a fairer share of the nation's wealth, but if they don't look out, nonworking-class militants will push them out of their day in the streets and hijack Labor Day to serve political interests that have little to do with advancing workers'

ANALYSIS

The nation celebrates Labor Day today under the

interests.

trauma of two events. First, the May 1, 2001, storm-

ing of Malacañang by the lumpen-proletarian cohorts of former President Joseph Estrada protesting his arrest on charges of plunder Second, the declaration of a

national emergency on Feb. 24, in response to a military coup attempt which had absolutely no relation to working-class interests. In a case of obtuse political thinking, the Arroyo administration included working-class leaders, especially the Left (for example Representatives Crispin Beltran and Satur Ocampo), in the crackdown on an alleged multiclass coup conspiracy to overthrow the government.

These two events set the tone WORKERS/ A22

Mutineer studies coup prevention

By Nikko Dizon

NAVY LT. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV, detained for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, has earned a degree in public administration, submitting a final paper that ironically dealt with "Preventing Military Interventions."

He was not present at last week's graduation ceremonies at the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) in Diliman, Quezon City. (See story on Page A8.)

But the 35-year-old officer has managed to channel his frustrations at the government through what seemed to be a benign academic requirement, which he completed during the summer term of May 2004, shortly before the presidential election.

From his cell at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), Trillanes wrote a 37-page paper that analyzed policies purportedly being implemented by President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to prevent coups.

He used the Oakwood incident as a jump-off point for discussion, concluding that administration measures did not address issues the rebels raised when they assaulted the Oakwood Suites in Makati City in July 2003.

Trillanes warned against future coups and a possible civil uprising and stressed the need for a president with "strong political

Labor has priority over capital, says CBCP head just share of the fruits of their must always be taken into ac- and what they can give to each

By Christian V. Esguerra, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTIFICATION WHATEVER workers need for their protests today, they got it from Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the 122-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philip-

Lagdameo yesterday lamented that workers in the Philippines were "oftentimes deprived of the

work."

In a statement on his Web blog, the Jaro archbishop stressed that there should be "interdependence and complementarity" to achieve economic progress, quoting from the "Compendium of the Social Teachings of the Church,"

Lagdameo noted that in any social question, "the rights of the weak, the dignity of the poor, and the obligation of the rich, the perfeeting of justice through charity,

count in the just ordering of soci-

The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, whose priorities included transforming the local Church into a "Church of the poor," recognized the "priority of labor over capital," Lagdameo

"Labor Day can be a happy occasion for labor and capital/government to express to each other how much they need each other

other for the good of the country," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to announce today a "strong package of amelioration measures" for workers, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. He did not give details.

"Because we have made significant gains in the economy, we can now pay back the people, especially the working class," Bunye said in a statement.

He said the President supported "a reasonable wage hike" hammered out by the tripartite regional wage boards.

"A middle ground can be reached if all sides are focused on common goals and principles, mainly the good of the nation,' Bunye said.

The last time the wage board in Metro Manila granted a pay raise was on June 16, 2005 a P25 daily minimum wage increase

Maoist gains in Nepal inspire CPP leader



GREGORIO "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party spokesperson, MUTINEER/ As talks about people power in Nepal.

SOMEWHERE IN SOUTHERN Luzon-From his coconut leaf hut deep in the forest, Gregorio Rosal, one of the country's most wanted men, smiles in admiration at the recent success of Nepal's Maoist rebels.

Their advance has been inspiring," the chief spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) told Reuters. "It's the protracted people's war that Mao practiced in China."

Nepal's rebels loosely aligned themselves with mainstream political parties and forced the autocratic king to cede power this

The CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have been waging the world's longest communist insurgency. They want a similar tle-up with disgruntled soldiers and political opposition groups to oust President

For the second time in over a month, Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon spewed ash and steam during an eruption last Saturday. Government volcanologists have appealed to the public to report thieves who are taking their monitoring equipment.



FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The

rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolat-

ed rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the alternoon or

COMPLET BY KATE PEDIOSO, POLYESEARCH/DA/20/06

Partly Cloudy

Cloudy with Ratins Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains

Palace warned on emergency decree

By T] Burgonio

SENATORS YESTERDAY WARNED MALACAÑANG that it risked facing another suit and further public outrage if it reimposes an emergency decree and tramples on workers' right to peaceably assemble at today's Labor Day activities.

Palace would trigger a strong public backlash if it issued a decaration similar to Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 to quell an armed challenge at today's nationwide railies.

"If they again proclaim PP 1017 and mount illegal acts, such as warrantiess arrests, they can Remember PP 1017 did not give additional powers to the President," Biazon said in a phone interview.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said there was no reason for Malacañang to issue another emergency decree.

"A new proclamation is unnecessary. Malacañang can still achieve its goals without having to resort to such superfluous edicts. It would do well for Malacañang to listen to reason and sobriety rather than to excessiveness and over-reaction," he said.

PP 1017, which laid the basis for the week-long state of national emergency in late February that saw the warrantless arrest of protesters, party-list congressmen and critics, and a raid on a

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the newspaper, has been questioned before the Supreme Court.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said the threat to reimpose emergency rule would only further fan the ire of the public, particularly workers who he said were not plotting anything except to mark Labor Day today.

If you scare people off from be held accountable in the future. joining today's rallies and preempt them from doing what they wanted to do, you will only spark more anger," he said in an interview over dzBB.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also branded the threat to reimpose an emergency decree as mere "shadow-boxing" designed to scare off Labor Day

"Gloria is building strawmen, and shadow-boxing, hoping to scare people from joining Labor Day demonstrations. My advice: 'Go jump into Manila Bay Bring JDV (Jose de Venecia) and Puno (Secretary Ronaldo Puno) with you."

Malacañang's plan to reimpose a decree similar to PP 1017, however, yesterday received the support of a Catholic priest in Central Mindanao.

"If the rally will turn violent, I think it would be good for the government to reimpose PP 1017 for the people's security," said Fr. Bert Layson, interfaith coordinator of the Archdiocese of Cotaba-

But Layson said he was hoping that the reimposition of PP 1017 would not curtail the Filipino people's basic rights.

On Saturday, Malacañang threatened to reimpose a PP 1017-like declaration if today's street demonstrations turned into an armed challenge against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

We will take this course if the railies turn out to be a cover for an armed component to topple this administration," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor

The threat came on the beels of a reported plot by the Left and the opposition, dubbed "Oplan Manggagawa," to unseat Ms Arroyo through a wave of coordinated street protests at strategic areas in Metro Manila from dawn

Militant groups, partly spurred by the Supreme Court's ruling declaring the "calibrated preemptive response" policy unconstitutional, had been mobilizing thousands of members in the metropolis and across the country for today's protests.

But Biazon dismissed the reported fresh plan to oust Ms Arroyo today, saying Malacañang only feared that today's rallies



THEY, I'M UP HERE!"

Anakpawis party-list representative and labor leader Crispin Beltran waves to supporters and the media from his room at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City where he is confined for treatment following his arrest over a month ago on rebeillon charges. Today marks the first time in 20 years "Ka Bel" has missed being at the forefront of the Labor Day celebration.

would snowball into a people's dain January 2001. revolt that could topple her administration.

"Malacañang is scared of the Labor Day rallies snowballing into a sustained demonstration and rally that will duplicate Edsa II," he said, referring to the militarybacked people's revolt that toppled then President Joseph Estra-

"Remember, soldiers are watching what's happening in the streets. A sustained and enlarged rally could very well be the trigger of a withdrawal of support. That's what Malacañang is afraid of," he said.

Zainab Ampatuan, deputy secretary general of the Suara

Bangsamoro party-list group, said the rallies would only turn violent "if antiriot policemen attempt to disperse and harass us."

In Mindanao, about 60,000 protesters will converge on major cities to demand an increase in the minimum wage and to oppose Charter change. With Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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Guingona urges Bataan folk to recall signatures

By Greg Refraccion PDI Central Luxon Desk

BALANGA CITY-FORMER VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. has appealed to Bataan residents to withdraw their signatures from the petition to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

"Bawiin ninyo ang pirma niyo (Take back your signatures)," Guingona told participants at a forum on Charter change here on Saturday.

Guingona said the Arroyo administration was just exploiting the people's lack of understanding of the Charter change issue to achieve its goal-to extend President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.

"If you have already signed approving the Charter change, you may execute an affidavit to recall your signature," he said during the forum organized by the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD).

Guingona told the forum that the Arroyo administration was pursuing the Charter change campaign to cover up for its shortcomings, and to divert the people's attention away from the fertilizer scam, the Venable con-

tract, OFW fund scam, etc. They are doing this so we would forget about anomalies in government."

The move for Charter change must emanate from the people themselves, not from President Arroyo. The people's initiative must come from the people, not from Malacañang," he said.

Guingona also dismissed the claims that a parliamentary form of government would stop graft and corruption.

"That's not true; that would depend on the people who would compose parliament. With the parliamentary system, there will be no more accountability, no more check and balance," he said.

Lawyer Dante Ilaya, former governor of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Central Luzon, said the constitutional change being pushed by the Arroyo administration was "grossly unconstitutional" since there was no enabling law to support the move.

"It is not the people who are pursuing Charter change but the Arroyo administration itself. It is actually a diversionary tactic of the administration," he said.

Pump prices rise anew by 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES yesterday raised the pump prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter as world oil prices continued to surge to record highs.

Leading the price hike was Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., which adjusted pump prices at 12:01 a.m. Sunday. Petron Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. followed suit at 6 a.m. on the same

At 6 a.m. today, Total (Philippines) Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. also increased their fuel prices.

Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Corp. will raise prices by the same level at 12:01 a.m.

tomorrow. The oil firms again cited the unabated rise in international of prices for the latest oil price hike,

Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to an April average of \$64.13 a barrel from \$57.82 a barrel in March.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products likewise soared to \$80.90 a barrel in the first 27 days of April from last month's average of \$69.64 a bar-

MOPS-based diesel soared to \$86.59 a barrel in the April 1-27 period from \$77.99 a barrel last month.

These new price adjustments bring premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.79 and P39.26 per liter, diesel to between P32.79 and P34.42 perliter, and kerosene to between

P35.60 and P38 per liter. These pump price ranges are inclusive of the 12-percent valueadded tax. Bata from the Department of

US: Corruption hindering RP antiterror campaign

By Nikko Dizon

THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE has expressed concern over the rampant corruption at the Bureaus of Customs and Immigration which could compromise the country's antiterror campaign and render it vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

In a report, the US said that corruption in these agencies had weakened the Philippines' border protection against the possible entry of suspected terrorists into the country.

"Understaffed customs and immigration offices, manned by undertrained and underpaid officials, are extremely vulnerable to corruption," the US state department said.

The Bureau of Customs oversees the entry and exit of import-

Immigration monitors the movement of foreigners going in and out of the country.

In its report, the US state department also expressed alarm over the "growing cooperation" among Islamist terrorist organizations in the country, namely, the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Sulaiman Movement Rajah

It is a "major, and disturbing, trend in the Philippines," the re-

The US state department's latest assessment of the Philippines' fight against terrorism was included in its 2005 Country Reports on Terrorism released on

ed and exported goods at airports country report is required by the and seaports while the Bureau of US Congress to "provide an assessment of terrorism worldwide," according to the US Embassy website.

Aside from the lure of corruption, the report said the Philippines' border management system has been struggling against "poor physical and information technology infrastructure and insufficient capital and human resources; increased traffic and antiquated facilities that overburden airports and seaports."

Without elaborating, the report said the US "has made some beadway in assisting the Philippines in border management sys-

The absence of an antiterrorism law, as well as the "re-The state department's annual strictions in gathering evi-

country report is required by the dence," continue to be among the stumbling blocks in "building effective terrorism cases in the Philippines," the report

to kind of the same was

The problems include "rampant corruption," "low morale" and "lack of cooperation between police and prosecutors," among others, the report said.

Another cause for concern, the report said, was the terrorists' "technically sophisticated explosive devices" which were used in various bombing incidents around the country last

Nevertheless, the report said, the Philippines had also made significant progress in its fight against terrorism last year, particularly with the arrest and conviction of several suspected terror-

Noli padlocks NorthRail settlers' homes

AT LEAST 10 HOUSES IN A REsettlement area for informal settiers were ordered padlocked the other day by Vice President Noli de Castro after he confirmed that these had been sold by their beneficiaries to non-qualified persons for the money.

A furious De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), directed the National Housing Authority to effect the closure order and evict the illegal residents.

De Castro ordered the closure

after inspecting the houses in Northville 5, Barangay Batia in Bocaue, Bulacan.

He also castigated those who sold their houses.

Binalaan ko na kayo noon pero hindi kayo nakinig. Ngayon, kailangan ninyong pagsisihan ang inyong matitigas na ulo (I warned you before but you did not listen. Now, you have to suffer the consequences of your being hard-headed)," De Castro told those who had sold their new houses.

Earlier, the Vice President sponding penalty. warned that the selling of houses in resettlement areas provided by the government under the NorthRail resettlement project

Despite the lack of funds, he

said, the government was still spending millions of pesos to provide housing for qualified beneficiaries in order for them to have decent lives.

But since some of the relocatees proved to be very stubborn, De Castro said, he had no other recourse but to impose the corre-

"From a bulg

34 inches, I'n

back into my

size 27 jeans

again!

He said neither the seller nor the buyer of an illegally sold house in the relocation site would be spared from punishment because both would be evicted from the project.

He said the NHA would be more than glad to find other qualified beneficiaries to occupy the

De Castro sald that the selling and leasing of the houses awarded to beneficiaries violated the rules of the NorthRail relocation Cynthia D. Balana program.



HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo calls on Malaysia Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in the course of the 6th Philippines-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting held recently in Kuala Lumpur. Romulo asked Malaysia to help the Philippines In its bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference and thanked it for its important role in the GRP-M&LF peace process.

Violence mars demolition at Subic shipyard project

By Allan Macatumo PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC, ZAMBALES-VIOLENCE broke out on Saturday when residents of Sitio Agusuhin here resisted the demolition of their homes at the construction site for the coun-

'try's largest shipbuilding facility. At least two persons were hurt, including a five-year-old girl, after they refused to leave their home while it was being demoiished, said Resy Asero, a resident

of the area. The demolition of some public structures in the area also sparked a commotion between the residents and the demolition team.

The conflict erupted two days before the scheduled visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the groundbreaking ceremony of the shipbuilding project.
They imposed a forced demoli-

from of our houses despite our strong opposition. What will happen to us how?" Asero told the INCURER.

Some 200 residents formed a human barricade to prevent the entry of the demolition team. They refused to leave their houses until they were transferred to the relocation site.

ed the failure of officials of Hanjin, a Korean shipping company, to provide proper compensation for their houses and the lack of a relocation area.

ence of soldiers in their village, saying this only added to the tension start of construction in February.

Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun said they have started transferring residents to the relocation site in Sitio Mahumiling in Barangay

"At least 70 families have been relocated to the new site and we have started to build school buildings in time for the next

of Subic was responsible for the relocation of more than 300 affected families that would be displaced by the project.

shipyard here.

They also denounced the presthat had gripped the site since the

Cawag here.

school year," he said. He said the local government

Hanjin has signed a \$1-billion (P51 billion) agreement with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority for the lease of the property for its

The relocation site is now ready to accept these residents. We are just waiting for them to

voluntarily leave their houses," The affected residents protest- Khonghun said. South Korea gives more for children of veterans

SOUTH KOREA HAS DONATED A further \$100,000 (P5.1 million) to a scholarship program for dependents of Filipino soldiers who served during the Korean War in

South Korean Ambassador Hong Jong Ki recently turned the check over to Brig. Gen. Bien-Venido Castro (ret.), president of the Peftok Veterans Association Inc. (PVAI) which is composed of Filipino Korean War veterans.

Peftok stands for Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea. It consisted of five Battalion Combat Teams (BCTs) that helped defend South Korea from aggression by communist North Korea and China in 1950-53.

The Peftok Scholarship Program was launched in 1986 with seed money from the South Korean government. It has provided financial assistance to some 2,500 high school, college and vocational scholars, Castro

The PVAI implements the scholarship program through an academic board. Nine of the 10 Pefrok scholars are girls.

Castro thanked the South Korean government for its continuing support of Filipino Korean War veterans. He said the PVAI had asked South Korea to also support other livelihood projects that would benefit the Peftok veterans and their de-

Hong, in turn, thanked the Philippines for helping defend his country and assured the veterans of South Korea's support. Over 100 Filipinos died while 400 more were wounded during the Korean War.

Hong and Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, commanding general of the Philippine Army, were the guests of honor at recent rites marking the 55th anniversary of the Battle of Yuldong, the biggest battle fought by Filipinos in the Korean War.

Esperon said Peftok set standards of gallantry that continue to inspire Flipino fighting men. He ordered that awards for valor and meritorious conduct earned by Peftok veterans that were never awarded be given out after a review of the records.

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POSTNATAL

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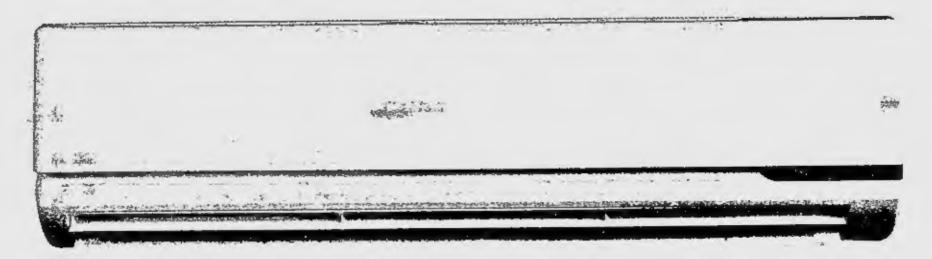
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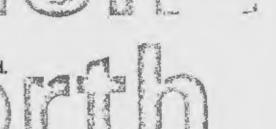
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Turn to the Experts."

Davao most competitive city-study

DAVAO CITY-THIS CITY WAS ADJUDGED anew the most competitive among the country's largest cities based on the 2005 Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project (PCCRP) conducted by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center.

It was the second time the city drew the highest ranking in the PCCRP study, the first time being in 2002.

Also rated as competitive cities in the regent AlM study were Makati, Las Piñas, Marikina and Muntinlupa.

AIM professor Mario Lopez presented the study during last week's Mindanao Coalition for Transparent Governance (MCTAG) forum held at the Apo View Hotel here.

Lopez said the AIM study measured seven major "drivers" with corresponding indicators such as the cost of doing business, dynamism of local economy, linkages and accessibility, human resources and training, infrastructure, responsiveness of the city to business needs, and quality of life.

He said Davao City ranked first in the cost of doing business, second in both dynamism of local economy and linkages and accessibility. It was 3rd in infrastructure, 4th in quality of life, 6th in responsiveness to business needs, and 11th in human resources and training.

Lopez said the 2005 PCCRP study rated 65 cities in three categories-metropolitan, midsize and small.

He said the city's poor performance in human resources and training might have been the result of the low ratio of its schools to the

appropriateness of the courses offered.

Roberto Teo, chief of the Davao City Investment Promotion Center, said the 2005 rating meant the city was headed in the right direction.

"With an average economy of P100 billion and an improving economic performance, the city will surely continue to be on top of other Philippine cities in terms of competitiveness,"

Lopez said the study showed that the most competitive mid-sized cities were Bacolod, Batangas, Iligan, Iloilo and San Fernando, Pampanga, and the most competitive small cities, Dagupan, Legazpi, Koronadal, Naga, Olongapo, San Fernando, La Union; Stal. Rosa, Surigao, Tagbilaran and Tagum. Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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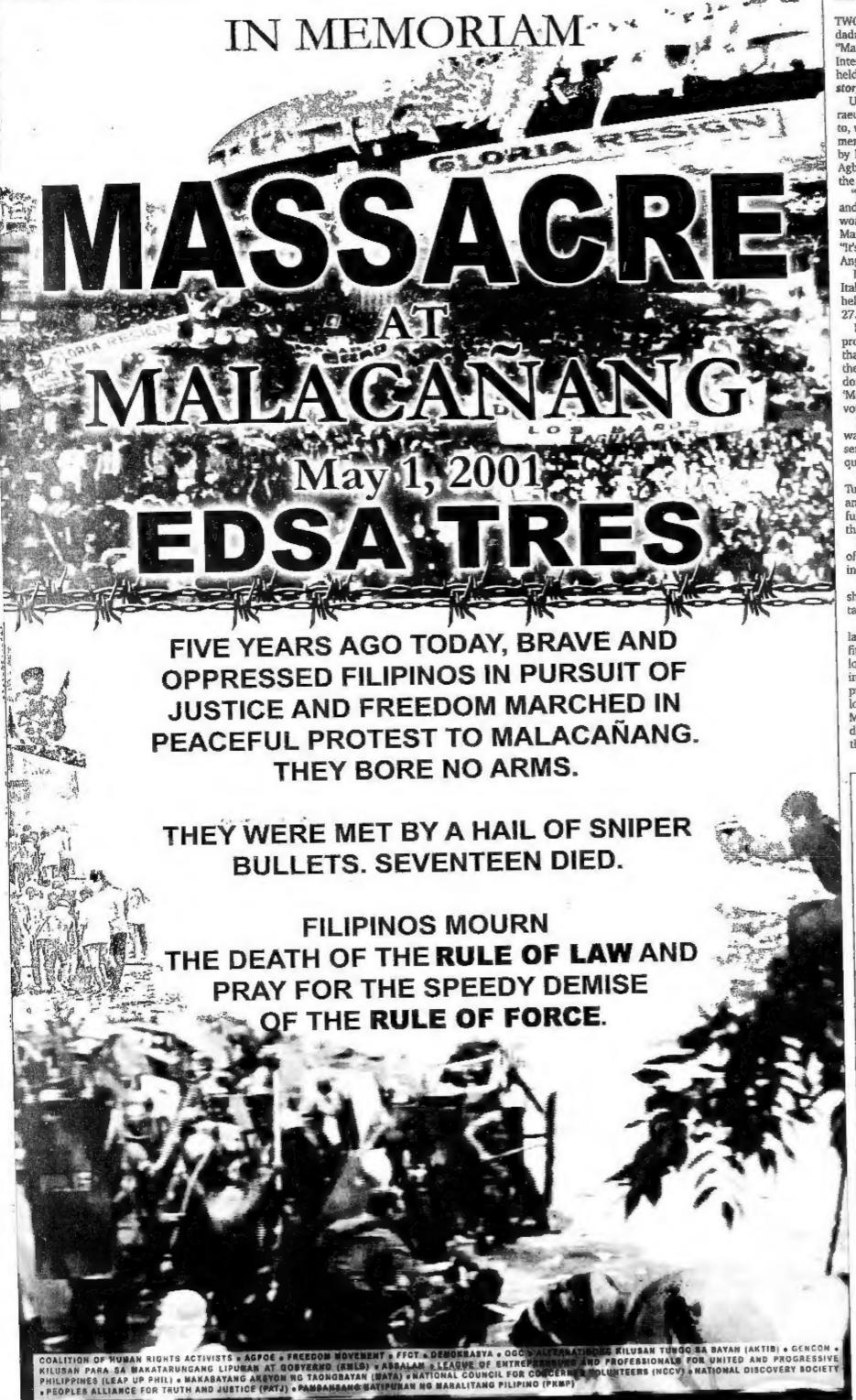
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'Maximo,' 'Masahista' top Italian gay film fest



By Bayani San Diego Jr. Entertainment

TWO FILIPINO DIGITAL MOVIES, "ANG PAGdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and "Masahista," won top awards at the 21st Turin International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival held in Italy from April 20 to 27. (See related

story in Inquirer Entertainment, p. A2-1).

Ufo Pictures' "Maximo," directed by Auraeus Solito and written by Michiko Yamamoto, won for Best Feature Film. Gee Entertainment and Centerstage's "Masahista," directed by Brillante Mendoza and written by Boots Agbayani Pastor, won the Audience Award in the video program.

"Turin is considered one of the biggest gay and lesbian film festivals in Europe, if not the world," Mendoza, who had just arrived in Manila, told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "It's of the same caliber as the Outfest in Los Angeles, where 'Masahista' was also invited."

Mendoza attended the week-long event in Italy and was present at the awards ceremony held at the Multisala Teatro Nuovo on April

He described his win as "unexpected... The program director Cosimo Santoro told me that audience members didn't usually fill up the feedback forms after a screening," Mendoza said. "But they made an exception for 'Masahista' and gave it their unanimous

He said the Turin film fest was fun. "There was a tribute to [gay icon] Cher and the presenters at the awards show were drag queens," Mendoza said.

Apart from the gay and lesbian festival, Turin is also famous for the Shroud of Turin, an ancient relic believed by the Catholic faithful to have been the burial cloth used to wrap the body of Jesus Christ.

Mendoza also accepted the award on behalf of "Maximo," after director Solito's speech sent in a letter was read at the ceremony.

"Solito said that 'Maximo' was a film of sharing, that the cast and crew shared their talents in making the movie," Mendoza said.

In the citation, Turin's international jury lauded "Maximo" for going "beyond the con-fines of sexual identity to tell a story of familiar love, brotherhood and acceptance. This amazing film takes us into a world we rarely see to present an honest and insightful portrait of a lower-class family in crisis. Twelve-year-old Maxi leads us on an incredible journey of selfdiscovery as he blossoms into maturity with the help and love of his father and brothers."





Monday, May 1, 2006 Joseph, the Worker 1st Reading: Gen 1:26-2:3 (or Col 3:14-

Matthew 13:54-58 Gospel: Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters liv-

they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

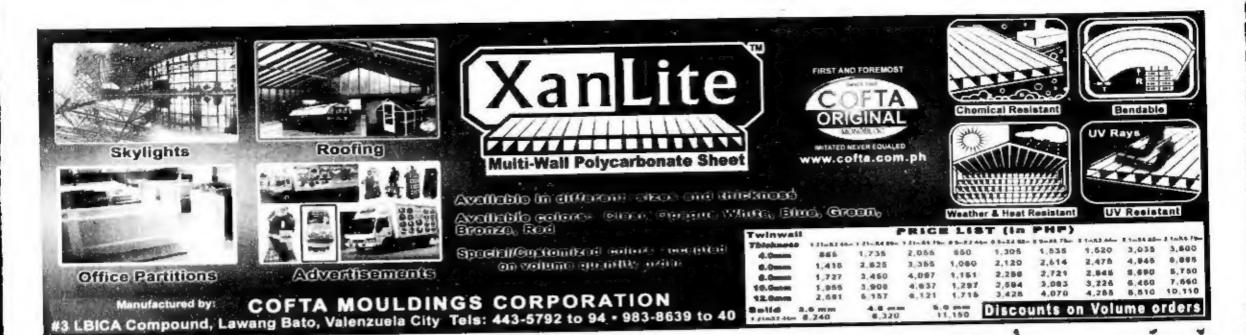
ing here? How did he get all this?" And so

Commentary

We are made in the image of God who did the work of creation, making all things good. And we were given dominion over all the earth and its creatures. Dominionmeaning "lord,"—but we are to lord it over the earth the way God lords over us, his creation, caring for it, protecting it and nurturing it, safekeeping it and passing it along, so that all enjoy its richness and see

in it the glory of the Maker. Jesus is the son of Joseph the carpenter, who worked to keep Jesus alive, protecting him and Mary from violence, breaking the law to save their lives and provide for them. Today we honor Joseph who adopted Jesus, the son of God as his own beloved son, and taught him how to be a man-a human being and a Jew-how to walk the earth with us. That was his work and ours too.

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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

'Ma'am, is there a shortcut in the policy process?'

By Julie M. Aurelio

HE WAS NOT IN THE CAP AND gown brigade but the graduates cheered and roundly applauded him when his name was called.

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Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, the socalled public face of the Magdalo group because he spoke for the mutineers who took over the Oakwood complex in 2003, was under military detention.

But his presence was felt on April 22 during the recognition rites of the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance, where he earned a master's degree in public administration while under detention.

Trillanes had enrolled at the college during the first semester of 2001. He was two subjects shy of obtaining his degree when the mutiny broke out.

Officers normally take up advanced military and general staff courses to be considered for promotion. Masteral degrees in other fields help those seeking star ranks.

Dean Alex B. Brillantes Jr. said a student of public administration prepares himself for a career in government.

"If he's already in the government, it will sharpen his skills in local government, fiscal management, policy analysis, and the like," Brilliantes said in a phone interview. It will broaden his

perspective on things and widen guy at all," said one. his options and skills."

Classmates in the program recalled that Trillanes was a quiet man who sometimes attended his evening classes in uniform. He was said to have a lot of bearing and had minded how he carried his rank.

Bright, conscientious

"He's a bright, conscientious student ... he's very smart," a government worker and ex-classmate said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Whenever he speaks, you will really turn around and listen. You would never think that he would have those kinds of ideas in his head, because he's not a showy

Another classmate, now a university researcher, remembered that Trillanes had refused to take part in a spoof of an evangelical TV show, apologizing that he was not up to it.

A few weeks before the Oakwood mutiny, Trillanes' PA 244 class was having a discussion on policy process and its stages. The researcher recalled that Trillanes had shocked the class by asking their professor, "Ma'am, is there a shortcut in the policy process?"

I guess he thought that the policy process took too long. There's structural analysis, program implementation and monitoring. But we didn't realize that the shortcut that he was referring to was a coup,"

the researcher said.

Dr. Pe Mendoza, Trillanes' professor in PA 244, said the officer was open about sharing in class some of the issues hounding the military. She remembered that Trillanes once recounted how he had been reprimanded by President Macapagal-Arroyo during an audience.

Personal tragedy

"I think completing the MPA was not a big deal for Sonny [Trillanes] because he was about to finish it anyway," Mendoza said.

What was more admirable, she said, was that Trillanes was able to survive personal tragedies like the death of his 21-day-old son in

She pointed out, however, that the military might regard Trillanes" with more caution as his new knowledge might lead him to ask more... questions and agitate certain sectors,

"In our policy classes, you are. trained to ask questions. Questions are encouraged in the academic. sphere. Perhaps the military might view him as more dangerous because he might ask more questions and not be satisfied with the answers," Mendoza said.

"I don't think we should be threatened," Brillantes remarked, explaining that Trillanes' education can be a tool for empowerment. He added, however, that the officer should stay within the bounds of the law.

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Mutineer studies coup prevention

From page Al

will and moral integrity" to prevent military interventions.

Good governance

"It's all about good governance. [Preventing military intervention] lies with the President because she's the ultimate policy-maker," Trillanes told the Inquirer at the Oakwood court hearing in Makati City on Tuesday.

Most of Ms Arroyo's policies were "unresponsive to the underlying causes of the Oakwood incident and, therefore, will not prevent future military interventions," he wrote in his paper, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Trillanes recounted that more than 300 officers and men took over the posh hotel to protest alleged massive corruption, selling of arms and ammunition to the enemies of the state, state-sponsored terrorist acts and widespread poverty.

The officer was the spokesperson of the mutineers, who collectively called themselves the Magdalo group-after the rebel faction led by Emilio Aguinaldo during the Philippine revolution against Spanish colonial rule.

Trillanes claimed he was against military intervention, citing its adverse effects on the country's economic and political stability, the negative impression it gave to the international community and the loss of lives.

We can't afford another'

"Simply put, we cannot afford another one," Trillanes wrote.

But he stressed that Edsa I and Edsa II showed that military intervention "may be

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necessary in extreme cases," such as when there were "oppressive, corrupt and inept administrations and administrations that resort to electoral fraud to stay in power."

Trillanes also warned that a "depoliticized military" could end up as blind followers to a tyrannical leader, and that this could provoke a civilian uprising. He pointed to the country's experience with President Ferdinand Marcos' martial law rule that led to Edsa I in 1986.

The only way to prevent these military interventions, he said, was to address the "underlying causes" of unrest within the Armed Forces, the government and society in general and to come up with effective government policies.

But crucial to their proper implen tion is the demand for an unbending political will and moral integrity from no less than the President," Trillanes emphasized.

Change unlikely

A source close to Trillanes told the INQUIRER in a separate interview that the junior officer believed that it was all up to Ms Arroyo to implement better policies to ward off any mili-

tary uprising until her term expires in 2010.

"But it's very doubtful that she could change at the rate she's paying off her political debts," the source recalled Trillanes as say-

The source, who had read Trillanes' paper and discussed it with him, requested anonymity for security reasons.

"He thinks that it's a given that Philippine society should expect another military intervention now when the root cause of all these problems is not being addressed," the source said.

The source recalled that Trillanes had pointed out that in Edsa I, "the flash point then was electoral fraud. With that as a basis, we are in the same situation now."

Military interventions

In his paper, Trillanes analyzed what he identified as the nine major military interventions the country had experienced since Victor Corpus, as an Army lieutenant, led a raid on the Philippine Military Academy armory in 1970 up until the Oakwood mutiny.

The Davide and the Feliciano fact-finding commissions, created in response to the December 1989 coup and the Oakwood mutiny, respectively, had made recommendations to prevent future military interventions.

However, Trillanes wrote, the administrations that formed these bodies had failed to come up with "responsive" policies using the commissioners' recommendations as guiding

Trillanes has also ruled out a military junta. to run the country, the source said. "He knows it's not in our culture."

Tools for the future

Trillanes said he obtained an MA in Public Administration because it was an extension of his work in the military. A master's degree, he added, "equips one with tools for the future."

Following the Oakwood incident, a paper that Trillanes wrote as a graduate student on the corruption in the Philippine Navy became .. much-publicized.

With an MA tucked under his belt, would: he still pursue a doctorate?

Trillanes thought for a while and smiled: * "Bahala na kung saan ako dadalhin ng agos (It depends on where the tides will take me).

SM Megamel

SM Dasmarifias



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Smart over text spams

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE RIVALRY FOR MARKET SUPREMACY among the country's cellular phone networks is turning nasty.

Over the weekend, Globe Telecom Inc. complained to its main rival, Smart Communications Inc., about the latter's alleged maipractices.

in particular, the Ayala-controlled Globe assailed Smart for allegedly trying to entice clients to switch service providers by sending unsollered text messages over the former's

"It has come to our attention, through numerous complaints of our subscribers, that Smart is sending spam text messages or unsolicited and unwanted commercial and promotional advertisements to our submittees Globe's head of regulatory affairs V Froilan M. Castelo said in a letter to Smart's chief legal counsel Enrico L. Español.

One such message allegedly read: "Ds s {name} agent of Smart. Gus2 nyo po libre SIM w/free unlimtd ext? Int nye lang name?adres/sim brand so 09217659289 at ippdla SIM. Try nyo totoo po to. Tax10

Another message allegedly from Smart reass. "HeloIDs s {name} agent ng Smart po. Ppdihon po naming kyo ng free Smart prepaid simcard via courier. Free delivery po ito. Txt lang po your name/address/sim brand to 09217659289 para mpadala naming sim nyo, Libre itol Kung may tanong kyo, text CALL to same number at twgan po naming kayo. Thank you."

Please take note that this is in violation of National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) memorandum circular 03-03-2005 on the rules and regulations on broadcast message service," Castelo said in his letter.

Section 3.1 of the NTC memorandum says that commercial and promotional advertisements, surveys and other broadcast or "push" messages should be sent only to subscribers who have given prior consent or have specifically opted to receive [the] said messages.

Sought for comment by the Inquirea, Smart spokesperson Mon Isberto said he had neither read Globe's letter of complaint nor spoken to Español, who is the only party authorized to

speak on the issue. He said Smart will reply to the issue raised by its main rival by Tuesday at the earliest.

Globe raps Spain giving RP \$40M in development aid

BARCELONA—SPAIN IS EXTENDING ment had made the Philippines a prior-enterprises into the Asia-Pacific market. more than \$40 million in development assistance to the Philippines over the next three years, Ambassador Lani Bernardo told Speaker Jose de Venecia here during the latter's recent visit.

De Venecia came to this city with other Filipino legislators from Madrid where they met with leaders of both Spain's ruling Socialist Party and the Partido Popular headed by former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

De Venecia said the Spanish govern-

ity country" for development, quoting the Spain's Chamber of Deputies Speaker Manuel Marin of the Socialist Party and Casa Asia, a development unit of the Spanish foreign ministry, which is eyeing expanded cultural ties between Spain and the Philippines.

Speaking in the regional parliament in this city, De Venecia proposed a Catalonia-Philippines industrial park in the Philippines and a special zone for the eatry of small- and medium-scale Spanish

De Venecia also invited major construction companies and housing developers in Madrid and Barcelona to participate in housing programs in the Philippines, where the housing backlog has ballooned to 3-4 million and is still growing.

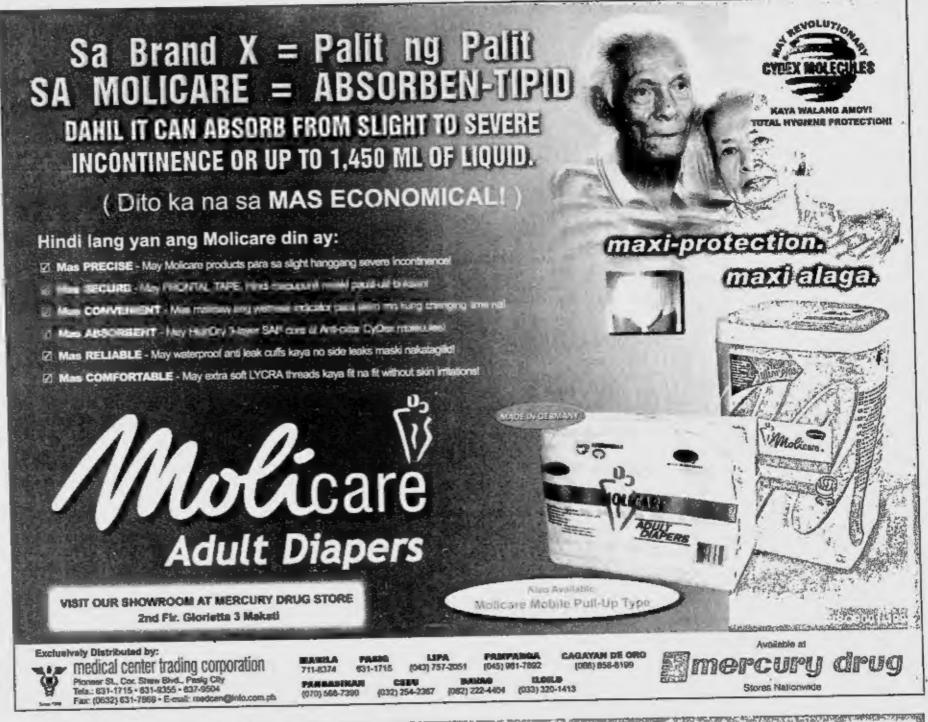
"A major housing program for the poor is one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's major priorities," De Venecia told the Spaniards.

De Venecia's party included Representatives Conrado Estrella III, Gene-

roso Tulagan and Arthur Celeste.

Earlier in Madrid, De Venecia appealed to the leaders of the Socialist Party and Partido Popular for support for his debt-for-equity conversion program to finance major antipoverty programs in some 100 heavily indebted countries.

In the Philippines De Venecia said, the Spanish government could convert the country's debt to Spain into debt for mass housing as well as for reforestation, education, agriculture, irrigation and tourism projects.





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Unicef chides RP media for reports on minors

By Volt Contreras

PHILIPPINE PRINT AND BROADCAST MEdia continue to violate the guidelines set by the government on reporting about children, according to a study commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

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Unicef Senior Program Officer Colin Davis said that among the "disturbing findings" of the study was the tendency of most editors "to avoid stories involving children because of the perceived complications it

Always identified

The study, which covered print and television in Metro Manila, Cebu City and Davao City, showed that minors figuring in reports-whether as victims, witnesses or aggressors-continue to be identified in violation of media guidelines for chil-

In a press statement, Unicef yesterday warned that the identification of minors

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in news reports could compromise their

The full names of child abuse sur-

vivors and children in conflict with the

law were sometimes published, or

enough details about their parents, resi-

dence or schools were given so that their

identities could be pieced together," the

Davis said these persistent violations may

be due to the lack of awareness among Fil-

ipino journalists of the media guidelines for children which were set by the Department of

Judgmental words such as drunk,

· Children continued to be featured in ar-

Only a few articles attempted to raise

· Actual interviews of children were rare

· Majority of the reporters covered by the

Davis bared the findings of the studies during the 5th Unicef-Philippine Press Insti-

tute Child-Friendly Newspaper and Jour-

nalist Awards ceremony held in Manila last

Unicef was assisted in the study by the

and, on occasions that they were interviewed,

study were found not to be abiding by the

journalistic standard of using two or more

these were unsupervised by adults;

sources in developing stories.

ticles for fund-raising purposes, which could

awareness of the causes and problems affect-

ing children, and there were none offering

result in potential exploitative situations;

epileptic, fugitive, escapees and rugby addicts

statement said.

Justice in 1999.

possible solutions:

Lack of awareness

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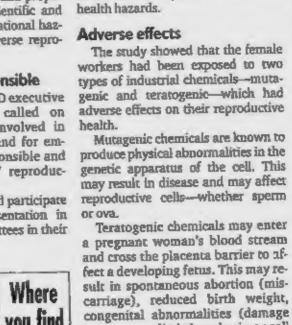
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sult in spontaneous abortion (miscarriage), reduced birth weight, congenital abnormalities (damage to organs or limbs), or brain or cell damage which could later result in cancer. Mutagenic and teratogenic

chemicals include: Acrylonitrates, aniline, anesthetic gases, arsenic bencompounds, benzene, beryllium, zo(a)pyrene,

Employers should periodically (boric acid), cadmium, carbon disulphide, carbon monoxide, conduct checkups among their workers and assist those found to be chlordicone, chloroform, chlorodichloromethane, ill in paying for their medication prene, epichlorohydrin, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde (formalin), hexachlorobenzene, lead (organic/inagencies should also be given more organic), methyl ethyl kerone, funds in addressing workers' repromonomethylformamide, nitrogen ductive health: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration so

dioxide, ozone, selenium and compounds, thallium, toiuene, vinyl chloride and xylene. Compensation Commission so that it

According to the IOHSD, studies on the effects on the female workers' exposure to these toxicants or poisonous chemicals were a delicate matter because two persons could be at risk: The woman, and if she is pregnant, her developing off-

Maternal exposure to a toxicant may cause infertility, menstrual disorders, illness during pregnancy, chromosome aberrations, early onset of menopause and suppressed libido.

Adverse fetal outcomes include pre-term delivery, fetal loss, perinatal death, low birth weight, altered sex ratio, congenital malformations, childhood malignancies, infant or childhood illness, chromosome aberrations and developmental disabili-

Other effects of the toxicants include menstrual cycle variability, spontaneous abortion, preeclampsia and miscarriage.

The study also found two types of dangerous radiation that women workers had been exposed to. One was ionizing radiation which is the type of radiation that is higher in frequency than visible light. The other was non-ionizing radiation whose frequency is lower than visible light.

Industrial hazards take toll on reproductive health-study

Colina said two labor department

that it could conduct more studies

and inspections, and the Employees'

could give more financial assistance

courage companies from making

women take the night shift so they

would not be exposed to additional

The government should also dis-

and therapy.

to workers.

A policeman learns to use a video camera in order to "shoot" the rallies set for today by groups marking Labor

should cases be filed against either the ralliers or police in connection with the expected assemblies. The

unidentified policeman belongs to Station 10 in Karnuning, Quezon City.

Day and protesting the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The cameras would provide recorded evidence

By Jerome Aning

CHEMICALS, RADIATION AND WORKrelated stress have taken their toll on the reproductive health of women working in the industrial sector, according to a non-government organization.

LEARNING TO SHOOT

in a recent study, the Manila-based Institute of Occupational Health and Safety Development said the three occupational hazards endangered women's reproductive processes, sexual functions, pregnancy and maternal conditions.

IOHSD surveyors examined 361 women working in two semiconductor plants and one garment manufacturing firm. Their findings were linked to known theories and propositions already set by scientific and medical studies on occupational hazards associated with adverse reproductive outcomes.

More involved, responsible

In an interview, IOHSD executive director Noel Colina called on workers to be more involved in health issues at work and for employers to be more responsible and responsive to workers' reproductive issues.

Workers' unions should participate and get greater representation in health and safety committees in their companies, Colina said.



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Peasants ask GMA to solve killings in Negros

By Blanche Rivera

PEASANT GROUPS YESTERDAY URGED President Macapagal-Arroyo to address the numerous killings of farmer-leaders who had been pushing for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in

Task Porce Mapalad (TFM), which has more than 300 affiliate organizations nanonwide, sought the President's intervention in solving the killings of farmer-beneficiaries and community organizers in Negros Occidental.

"We call on President Arroyo to look into these cases of killings and violence against farmer beneficiaries so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice and the victims can have hope for peace," TFM spokesperson Edna Sobrecaray said.

The TFM made the appeal to the President when she visited Bacolod City for the "Panaad" festival. The group said Malacañang's intervention would be decisive in ending violence against peasant leaders in the

since 2001, most of them working in haciendas whose workers had been organized by the

"The longer the land disputes remain unresolved, the more the farmer-beneficiaries become vulnerable to violence. We call on the President to ensure speedy distribution of CARP-covered hacienda lands," she said.

The killings of farmer-leaders were related to unresolved conflicts over the distribution of Negros haciendas, whose owners continue to resist the coverage of their lands under

The Department of Agrarian Reform has distributed 3.8 million hectares of the target ed 4.5 million hectares to be covered by CARP. Majority of the remaining 700,000 hectares are in Negros Occidental, where landowners have engaged the government in a legal battle to keep their lands.

"Farmers claiming ownership rights to hacienda lands placed under coverage of CARP are continuously subjected to threats, harassment, dismissal (from jobs), physical assault

Six members of the TFM have been killed and, when all these are not enough, assassination," Sobrecaray said

TFM members Ronilo Vasquez of Hacienda Cambuktot, Ronito Boltron of Hacienda Mulawin, Teresa Marneng of Hacienda Conchita Villanueva, Edgardo Cauntoy of Hacienda Nelia/Maniacalao, Agustin Flores of Hacienda Isabela were killed between 2001 and 2004

Another farmer-leader, Rico Adeva, was shot dead by still unidentified assailants in Silay City two weeks ago.

Three other agrarian reform activists from other peasant groups were killed this month.

The TFM also asked the DAR to unmediately install farmer-beneficiaries who had certificates of land ownership award but could not occupy the lands due to resistance from landowners.

She cited the case of farmer-beneficiaries at the 478-ha Hacienda Velez-Malaga, owned by former Marcos crony Roberto Cuenca. The 102 beneficiaries who have received their CLOAs since 2001 have failed to occupy a 144-ha portion of the hacienda because of Cuenca's guards.

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Pinoys don't eat enough veggies, UN study shows

By Dennis Jay C. Santos PDI Muidanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY-MOST FILIPINOS STILL DO not eat their vegetables, which makes them miss out on most nutrients.

"The vegetable consumption of Filipmos is very low," said Roger Gualberto, president of the Vegetable Industry Council of Southern Mindanao (VISCMIN), citing a study conducted by the United Nations' Food and Agricusture Organization (FAO)

Gualberto said the FAO had found that an average Filipino ate only 40 kilos of vegetables a year, a far cry from the ideal vegetable consumption of 100 kilos per person.

"We are only eating 40 kilos per year. That is below the FAO requirement," Gualberto told the INCORER on the sidelines of the 4th National Vegetable Congress here last week.

Gualberto attributed Filipinos' low vegetable consumption to a "lack of awareness" of the benefits of eating greens.

He said that because of this, his group was trying to promote the eating of more veggies.

Gualberto said vegetables were cheaper than fish, meat and poultry products and coutained the same amounts, if not more, of vitamins and minerals.

Besides, vegetables were bealthuer than red meat and poultry, which are associated with numerous diseases, he said.

Maoist gains in Nepal

From page Af

Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We call that united front factics, that is also what we are trying to do," said Rosal, alias Ka Roger, in his first face-to-face interview with the foreign media since the 1980s.

Ms Arroyo has accused the CPP and NPA of colluding with her political foes and renegade soldiers in an alieged bid to oust her in February. The Arroyo administration considers com-

munist guerrillas its top security threat, ahead of Moro rebels in Mindanzo. Rosal, who was one of 49 people charged

with rebellion for the alleged coup attempt against Ms Arroyo, demes there was a piot or that an alliance exists between the NPA and disfilusioned members of the Armed Forces, the sworn enemy of the communists.

Erstwhile foes

But the NPA is ready to align itself with its erstwhile foes if it means Ms Arroyo could be overthrown and replaced by a government which includes left-wing groups.

Rosal, his M-16 rifle within arm's reach in his hideout in Luzon, said a more sympathetic administration could lead to the revival of

Previous discussions between communist leaders and representatives of the Arroyo administration, which were brokered by Norway, stalled in August 2004 when Manila refused to help persuade Washington and some European states to remove the CPP and NPA from their blacklists of terrorist organiza-

Despite the collapse of communism in East-ern Europe, the fall of the Berlin Wali, and China's embrace of free-wheeling capitalism, the NPA continues to wage an insurgency that started in 1969 as successive administrations

have failed to deal with social inequalities and widespread poverty.

Fighting between rebels and governforces has ment Killed more than 40,000 people and stunted economic development.

Even so, Rosal still has fire in his belly. He has to constantly keep on the move to avoid capture and he has not seen his wife in almost two years.

"The future is very good," said the 58year-old guerrilla, unperturbed by China's conversion to capitalism adamant that the NPA's own Ideologi-I cal commitment is steadfast.

Capitalizing on coup fears in Manila, communist rebels have increased attacks on remote police stations and businesses since the start K of the year.

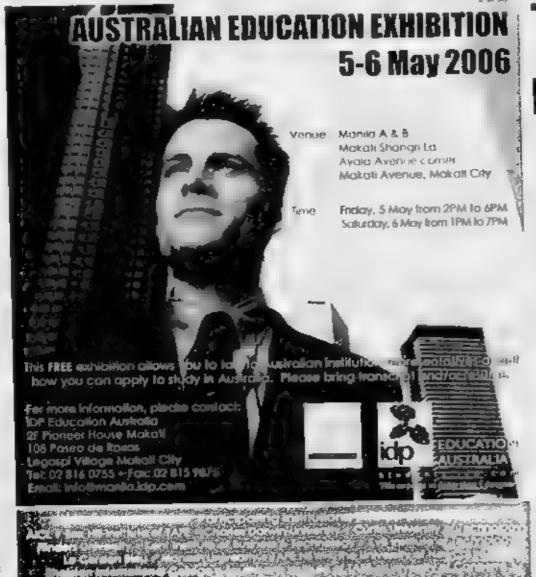
Rosal, who keeps himself up-to-date on world affairs via a radio strapped to his waist, puts the NPA

membership at around 8,000. He dismissed government claims that the NPA has lost 900 fighters since the start of the year. Reuters













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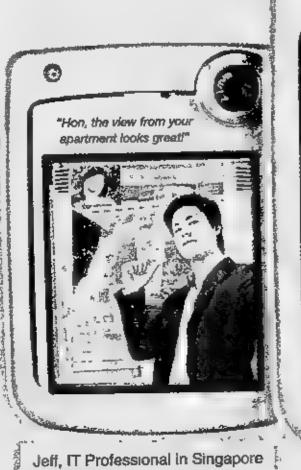
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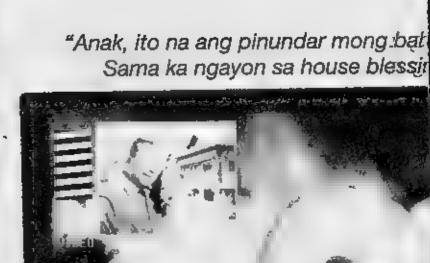
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Bunker mentality

N THE EVE OF THE EXPECTED RELEASE of the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of Presidential Proclamation 1017, the administration sounded out that it is preparing one last hurrah. The Cabinet had decided to hunker down in Malacañang today, Secretary Michael Defensor said. The group will be monitoring the Labor Day demonstrations

and will see whether they go beyond **EDITORIAL** the ritual demonstrations proclaiming the rights and interests of the working

class.

From within the ranks of protesters themselves has come a warning: the workers intend to see just how "maximum tolerance"-as enjoined by the Supreme Court in its recent decision on the calibrated preemptive response-would be exercised by the Arroyo administration. Administration officials say that the President might proclaim a state of national emergency. Whether or not she'd push through with the proclamation, or whether or not the situation would evolve to warrant such a proclamation, is beside the point.

By boldly-and baldly-announcing that the administration intends to resort to an executive action the legality of which is still to be decided by the Supreme Court, the President's men have clearly demonstrated how they regard the powers of the presidency and the law. Theirs is an attitude of extreme pragmatism verging on the cynical.

In people's minds, there are two principal questions concerning Proclamation 1017. First, does the President have the power to make such a proclamation? Second, were the actions taken by the military, police and government lawyers in implementing Proclamation 1017 permissible?

Let us even assume, as some lawyers have suggested, that the Court would declare that it is for the President to determine if there is enough basis to declare a state of emergency; but at the same time, it would rule that the arrests, detentions, dispersals, surveillance and other actions taken by the government by force of Proclamation 1017 were neither justified nor authorized. Such a decision would still be a legal setback for the President.

On the other hand, the readiness to re-impose a state of emergency only shows that the present administration has neither regrets nor the intention to atone for the alleged excesses committed in the name of 1017. That is bad enough.

And judging from statements coming from Malacanang, the possibility that the administration would seek to repeat today what it did on Feb. 24 is very real. We would then be in a situation, where an executive proclamation-whose legality or illegality has yet to be resolved by the Supreme Court-will be repeated, most likely to be accompanied by the same repressive acts that attended the first one.

Where would be the judicial, or even moral, relief in a Supreme Court decision reversing the decision of the . President? Or is the President supremely assured of a favorable verdict? If so, what would that say of the executive and judicial branches?

While the three branches of government are theoretically independent of each other, that would give the impression that, in reality, what the executive does could have serious consequences for the two others.

With its saber-rattling, the administration has again put in question the executive branch's regard for the rule of law, or for the judiciary. This is as unfortunate as it is irresponsible on the part of the President's official family.

Why will some Filipinos be out on the streets today? Because they believe they have a right to do so, and they have grievances that impel them to do so. As Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales recently suggested, in a world ruled by a basic adherence to social justice, workers would not have to agitate for their rights and an improvement in their standard of hving. But that world has yet to exist; and if there are workers who are compelled by their interests to protest, it is indeed their right to do so.

If those protesting intend to find out whether the Supreme Court's writ is indeed law, or is toothless as far the the executive branch is concerned, then who is to blame? Filipino workers have been observing Labor Day on May 1 of every year for over a century. Every president has survived each one of them. That the present incumbent seems not as confident about this day as her predecessors were says everything about her claims to having improved the lives and standard of living of the Filipino worker.



Respect is earned, not forced on others

WATCHED THE TELEVISION SHOW "Debate" before the weekend, and I was irritated by the way the government officials in the panel pounced on Maria Theresa Pangilinan, the student leader who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during the graduation ceremonies at the Cavite State University. The debate's question was: "Which should have priority, the citizen's right to protest or respect for the

The question was, of course, a no-brainer Surely, a citizen's right to protest comes first. But Rep. Monico Puentevella and Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulia repeatedly needled Pangilman, saying respect for Gioria Macapagal-Arroyo should have prevented her from shouting "Patalsikin si GMA" (oust GMA) and unfurling banners expressing the same sentiment while the President was delivering her speech.

Where is your respect for the President, they asked the girl who bravely stood her ground and replied that she was expressing an opinion, which was-and still is-her right.

The correct answer to that question should have been: "None!" Respect is earned, not forced. You cannot force others to respect you if you are not respectable. How can you respect anybody caught cheating to "win" the elections? How can you respect somebody who does not fulfill her promises? How can you respect someone who shamelessly and repeatedly violates the Constitution she has sworn to defend? How can you respect anybody who prevents government officials from testifying in investigations that may reveal shenantgans in her administration? How can you respect anybody who is desperately trying to change the Constitution to stay in power?

And look who's talking? We can throw the charge of lack of respect back to GMA. She showed lack of respect for the people by stealing the presidency from the person they elected. She fooled the people by making false promises. She made the lives of the people more miserable by imposing more and more taxes. She has even tried and keeps on trying to prevent them from speaking out their opin-

TODAY DOESN'T JUST MARK THE

umpteenth anniversary of Labor Day, it marks

the fifth anniversary of something of special

significance in these harried times. That is the

so-called "Edsa III," the mammoth gathering of

the-by all means figurative-Great Unshod

at the Edsa Shrine that culminated in the riots

Doubcless, Erap's supporters will recall it as the

real Edsa, the one that manufested true People

Power, which is the power of the mass, the poor

and thereto powerless, who are the majority of

the population of this country. Doubtless, too,

they will interpret it as the refutation of the idea

that Edsa II represented real "People Power,"

and a confirmation of their argument that Edsa

Il was simply an elite coup, wrought with the

help of the middle class, against a perfectly le-

that. There is no doubt, with his landshde vic-

tory, that Erap was a perfectly legitimate presi-dent, just as there is no doubt, with the "Hello

Garci" tape, that GMA is not. None of that

means that the effort to impeach Erap, on the

ground of having betrayed the public trust,

had no popular support. That overlooks, as I've

repeatedly pointed out, the impact of the im-

peachment trial, or more to the point, the air-

ing of the impeachment trial on TV, which had

the most popular telenoveles of the time biting

its dust. That wasn't just watched by the mid-

dle class, it was watched by the most, who de-

bated it at length, often violently, in drinking

sprees in narrow alleys in crowded siums. That

was what turned Erap from hero to beel, not

"Edsa III" was about Erap, but it also went

past Erap. The Edsa II forces, many of whom

ended up in GMA's government, heaped scorn

on "Edsa Uf" for variously being an anachro-

rusm, an atavism, a throwback to the past, or

as Bishop Socrates Villegas (who violently

protested its being held at the Edsa Shrine),

said, a desecration of hallowed ground. But

unlike the storyline of his own action movies.

The truth is a little more complicated than

grimate and pro-poor president

What is the significance of that event today?

ions and feelings.

As I SEE IT Neal H. Cruz

Pangilman is not alone in having no respect for GMA. Millions of Filipmos feel the same way. And GMA has nobody to blame but herself. Caught with her hand in the cookie jar, she refuses to face the music and accept her punishment Instead, she dodges the issue and uses every trick available to prevent the truth from coming out. How can you respect a person like that?

Even if millions of sycophants call a person "honorable," if he or she does not have honor, the title will mean nothing. "Honorable" is a word that has lost meaning in our vocabulary All congressmen are addressed as "honorable," but are they? Judges and members of investigating committees are addressed as "Your Honor," but what honor do they mean? Ambassadors are called "Excellency" but what's so ex-

cellent with many of them? A survey has shown that Filipinos are now very deficient in English. One reason for this could be: We keep using words that have lost meaning. For better English, we should expunge the word "honorable" from our vocabulary because it doesn't mean anything anymore, especially when it refers to congressmen and public officials

Going back to "Debate," Puentevella insisted that Pangilman should have waited for the proper time and place to voice her protest. I

In the present repressive regime, any time and place and opportunity to air a protest is the right time. Nobody can easily get close to GMA, surrounded as she is with her storm troopers at all times. She won't listen to anything that is not favorable to her anyway. You have to be quick and seize every opportunity to get her attention. Which was what Pangilinan did. She got GMA's attention and ear. And

that of the nation, too

And finally, Pangilman is the employer of the President, one of the millions of citizens paying her generous salary and other perks, as well as those of her retinue. The President and her assistants are the servants of the people. Therefore, the people, Pangilinan among them, have the right to tell her what they think of her. As employer, they have the right to fire her. And that is what they have been telling her all along—they want her to resign

The people of Quezon City are behind their mayor, Peliciano Belmonte, in his efforts to prevent gambling in the city. But what is this nation coming to? It is the gambling operators who are suing the mayor for not letting them operate outlets for the Small Town Lottery (which is now the polite name for justeng) in the city. The operators are asking for P11 million in damages. Did they pay the filing fee? Courts do not recognize the amount of damages asked unless the complainant has paid the filing fee.

The operators want the court to issue a temporary restraining order against Mayor Belmonte, Pacifico Maghacot Jr., chief of the business permit and licensing office, and city police chief Nicaslo Radovan Jr. What is there to restrain? They are not doing anything that they should be restrained from. On the cotrary, the operators want the city government to do something-give them a business permit, which is the prerogative of the city government, not anybody else's, di ba?

The operators say they have a franchise to operate from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. But anybody doing business in a certain place needs a business permit from the local government of that place. And the STL operators have none in QC. All other PCSO outlets in QC, like lotto outlets, have to secure business permits. What makes STL operators different?

'STL should be test-run only in cities that welcome it," said Mayor Belmonte. But it is not welcome in QC. There was no justeng in QC before, why should it have STL now?

Silent rage

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



that was because they reduced it to a simple and irrational support for a fallen idol. There was, of course, that element, too. It was a spontaneous support for a fallen idol, one who, after having been downed, was being kicked on the ground. The image of Erap being fingerprinted in a local precinct proved a most explosive one. And Brap's lieutenants, of course, were prominently in display at the Edsa Shrine goading the throng—which was easily bigger than the one that flocked at Edsas I and II—to "Sugod! Sugod!" Malacañang and throw Gloria out. Not the least of those lieutenants were Miriam Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile, who after "Edsa III" failed flew to GMA's side and metamorphosed into her undying faithful.

But "Edsa III" was far more than that, which is why I've always put the term in quotation marks, because of its mesturo quality. Beneath its seeming irrationality was something perfectly understandable, beneath its seeming bizarreness was something completely same. Which is why it has something to say to us, especially today. Beneath "Edsa til's" surface support for Erap was a deep-seated explosion of the wrath of the poor over their lot. It was, as I said then, the "social volcano" exploding. Everyone had warned of it before martial law. The social volcano-created by the divide between the "spectacularly rich and the spectacularly poor," as Ninoy Aquino put it, was near to exploding. It happened much much later, in "Edsa III."

To put it another way, beneath the farce of support for Erap in "Edsa III" lay the force of the revolt of the masses in "Edsa III." Beneath the Eraption was the Eruption.

That anger hasn't gone, notwithstanding that the riots at Mendiola were quelled, and the possibility that the revolt of the masses would be repeated remains. It can be smked easily, which is also its danger. It can be set aflame just as easily by false prophets as real ones. The lot of the poor hasn't improved, it has worsened, especially under GMA where the scale of pillage has reached staggering proportions (given an image by the face and body of Pidal), restrained only by the finitude of things left to steal.

Traditionally, several things have served as safety valve; allowing the magma in the social volcano to seethe without spitting its fiery venom out. Work abroad, faith in Providence and gambling are three of them. But there are limits to the restraining power of all three. There are limits to how many jobs we can get abroad, and as the Asian Development Bank has warned, the export of skilled labor has vicious consequences in the immediate future. Faith in Providence has not exactly deterred the poor from taking to crime, faith in this country having bizarre, cultist interpretations and expressions to begin with. And as to gambling, well, the stampede at the PhilSports Arena shows what hap-pens when people's hopes are dashed while they are desperately trying to get a crack at salvation.

Rep. Joey Salceda, a government economic adviser, has already warned of a "silent rage" over oil as a result of spiraling oil prices. The "silent rage" goes much deeper and farther than over oil. It has been seething over the years, now being stoked to near-eruption by a hugely unpopular usurper whose appetite for wealth

and power has had no peer since Marcos. We keep talking about the promise of another Edsa, it's time we talked about the threat of another "Edsa." May 1 is a particularly good time to do that, being both Labor Day and the day of the Mendiola mots, a day for thinking about workers and a day for thinking about the poor, who are often one and the same.

Heli hath no fury than the desperate scomed.



Who really won?

SOUNDING BOARD

mament. The response coming from government Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



tion crying for careful calibration. they are claiming. And in their case, mere asser-Start with EO 464. What principally drove tion of privilege does not establish the privilege. members of the Senate up the wall were portions In the ultimate analysis, it is the Court which deof Sections 2 and 3 of the executive order. These cides whether the subject is indeed covered by provisions require that all executive officials enumerated therein must obtain the consent of the President before appearing in legislative investigations. No consent, no show! The order covers senior officials of the executive department, generals and flag officers of the Armed Porces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police officers and senior national security officers. Only the janitors are not included! The total effect was effectively the paralyzation of legislative investiga-

THE SUPREME COURT STRUCK DOWN

significant portions of Executive Order 464 as un-

constitutional and declared that the "calibrated

preventive response" (CPR) against protest

movements has no place in the constitutional fir-

lawyers has been that, contrary to the thinking of

the uninitiated, the decisions were really a victo-

ry for the government. It is a highly amusing reac-

The Court's clear conclusion was that this portion of the executive order must be invalidated. The Court upheld the right of Congress to compel the appearance of executive officials in legislative investigations. The only person exempt from the compulsive power of Congress in legislative investigations is the President, the Court said.

It is hard to see this as a victory for government

I must admit, however, that the government lawyers focused on the fact that the decision upheld the existence of "executive privilege." But even this claim is nuanced and must be carefully

The first thing that must be made clear is that the only person who can claim executive privilege by reason of office is the President. She and she alone is co-equal with Congress. Other executive officials may claim executive privilege, but they cannot claim it by reason of the office they hold. It

DECIDING TO BECOME A WHISTLE-BLOWER IS

no easy matter. One has to grapple with one's

conscience and with the dangers and uncertain-

cumbed to pressures, threats and material entice-

ments thrown at them in "persuade" them to re-

tract. Indeed, some whistle-blowers have been

least) the incidence of irregularities in govern-

ment. It may be the spirit of altruism-the desire

impels some of them to become whistle-blowers

and defy the dangers and the fears that come

with their self-imposed calling. It is just so tragic

that most of us choose to remain deaf and blind to

the shenanigans in our midst, thus allowing graft

and corruption to flourish right within the bu-

moral decadence in our society. But it is not only

corruption in government that is keeping our na-

seem to have lost the long-held Filipino values

of hiya, delicadesa, utang na loob and palabra

de honor. We have allowed our positive cultural

traits to be smothered by insatiable greed. We

now put on high pedestals people with wealth

and power, no matter how they may have ac-

It is imperative for us to bring ourselves out

of the doghouse and back to higher ground, and

to recover our sense of integrity, righteousness,

uprightness, decency, honesty, patriotism and

nationalism, as well as our taste for simple liv-

JOSE RIZAL, IN HIS ESSAY, "THE PHILIPPINES A

tion stuck in the doghouse.

quired them.

Corruption in government is reflective of the

Our culture has also been corrupted. We

Public servants, as "insiders," can minimize (at

blown to kingdom come and silenced forever.

Very importantly, however, the Court also noted: "That a type of information recognized as privileged does not, however, necessarily mean that it would be considered privileged in all instances. For in determining the validity of a claim of privilege, the question that must be asked is not only whether the requested information falls within one of the traditional privileges, but also whether that privilege should be honored in a

Thus, the fact that the Court has upheld the existence of executive privilege in jurisprudence does not mean that the Court has upheld the privileged nature of the claims so far made by the government. For instance, the decision did not mean that the information Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudard was prevented from communicating was privileged in nature. What Godani knows might just be information which the public has every right to know. This can be verified in a closed

door hearing of the Court. Hence, again, the claim of government victory in the tribunal's decision on EO 464 is premature,

How about the fact that the Court upheld the validity of BP 8807 Was that a meaningful gov-

emment victory? The significant point of the decision is not so much the fact that it upheld BP 880 which, after all, is largely a codification of earlier decisions on assembly and petition. What is more significant is that it upbraided the government for adopting a dangerously vague policy of "calibrated preemptive response" and blamed it for not having established freedom parks; ordered municipalities to establish freedom parks within a given period after which, if they failed to do so, all open parks would be considered freedom parks; and emphasized that if a requested permit was not granted within two days it should be considered as granted. That is hardly a government victory worth boasting about

In conclusion, let me just say: It is difficult to awaken a person who is already awake.

Sharing

WHY IS MAY 1 SO SIGNIFICANT THAT THE PEOPLE OF every country—except the United States, Canada and South Africa-choose thus day to commemorate International Workers' Day?

Most baby boomers would probably remember, from their history lessons back in high school, that in 1884 the Pederation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions in the

States passed a resolution demanding an 8hour workday effective May 1, 1886. When that day came Butch Hernandez

COMMENTARY

and it became clear that no favorable legislation was forthcoming from the US Congress, workers went on a general strike. The mass action was marred by the bloody Haymarket Riot in Chicago,

But why does the United States celebrate Labor Day in September, when the May Day rallies began on American soil? Partly because the first ever Labor Day parade was held on Sept. 5, 1882, when 10,000 workers from various labor unions gathered at Union Square in New York City to ask for better working conditions. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland, fearing the growing militancy shown during May Day railies, declared the first Monday of September as the official

In the Philippines, the first Labor Day rally was held in 1903, when about 100,000 workers organized by the Union Obrero Democratica de Filipinas marched on Malacatiang, also to demand better working conditions.

These bits of history, however, might not be part of the stock knowledge of many of today's high school students for many reasons-like the lack of accurately written history textbooks and supplemental reading materials.

Indeed, the Department of Education's Pact Sheet for Academic Year 2004-2005 shows that the Fourth Year High School Mean Percentage Score for Araling Panlipunan (Sccial Studies, which includes History) is 50.01 percent. This means that the average public school sensor student gets about half of the test questions correctly. The national high school average achievement rate is 46.8 percent for all tests (i.e., Math, Science, English, Filipino and Araling Panlipunan)

But don't despair because help is on the way-from people who are willing to share what they have. Consider, for example, the Education Revolution activities of Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City. The activities started in 2004 when its president, lawyer Casimiro Juarez Jr., signed a memorandum of agreement with the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) as an Education Revolution program partner in Cagayan de Oro City. Thus, Capital University took on the job of drafting and implementing a comprehensive community development plan anchored on improving the quality of education for an en-

Anybody involved in social development work knows that community empowerment is not an activity to be taken

Fortunately, Capitol University has both the academic discipline and field experience to successfully address the community-specific issues that have cropped up during the past two years. Dr. Alice M. Diel, director of the university's Research and Extension Office, mobilized community extension officers from the different colleges to spearhead not just one but an entire set of programs for community empowerment and education improvement, collectively known as CARE SEED (Change Agent Research Extension Socio Sconomic and Environmental Development)

Diel recently visited the FWWPP's offices here in Manila to tell us that through CARE SEED, the Education Revolution has begun to flourish in Cagayan de Oro City.

The pupils of St. John the Baptist Elementary School, Capitoi University's adopted public school, have been undergoing remedial and tutorial classes in English, Science and Numeracy. At the same time, they were made beneficiaries of a school-feeding program. Concurrently, the parents have been offered the option to attend alternative non-formal schooling so they can reinforce their children's studies at

To promote positive civic values, CARE SEED conducts continuing seminars on basic health services for both children and parents. CARE SEED also runs several community development activities, such as livelihood and skills trainings, community organizing and leadership sessions, techniques for setting up of cooperatives, and seminars on crime and drug prevention. It even spearheads marine environment protection and conservation activities, given Cagayan

de Oro's rich aquatic ecosystem. Diel tells us that she and her group strive to be as sensitive as possible to the pulse of their adopted communities through focus group discussions. Diel says that parents and other community members are now active in these fo-

Capitol University—with people like Juarez and Diel, and their team of community extension officers-can do much for the communities that it routinely interacts with. But even

a single individual can make a big difference. Natasha Tabucal earned a college degree after several years of hard work. She has a world of options open to her. However, she has decided to enroll in the UP College of Education for a Certificate in Professional Education because she

really wants to teach in a public school. "I have long wanted to become a teacher but was not really encouraged before. [But] three years after graduating from college, I have decided that teaching is really what ! want to do," Natasha wrote in an e-mail she sent to us recently. She added that when she told people about her plan and especially about the part where she wants to teach in a public school, not a few eyebrows were raised.

Narasha continues, "Honestly, this career change is a blt scary, but I know this is what my heart tells me to do."

We at the FWWPP are happy to have played a part in Capitol University's Education Revolution for Cagayan de Oro City. We are clated that there are people like Juarez and Diel who share our vision that education is the best weapon against poverty. We are likewise deeply moved by Natasha's gesture. Whatever happens, she already has made a differ

(You may send e-mail to the author at execdir@fww-

Butch Hernandez is executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



given procedural setting."

It is thus necessary to understand the nature and scope of executive privilege as it has been recognized in jurisprudence. We are heirs to American jurisprudence on this subject, and we derive our understanding of the nature and concept of executive privilege from American jurisprudence. In simplest term, as the Court has put it, execu-

must be by reason of the nature of the privilege

tive privilege is the power of the executive to withhold certain types of information from the public, from the courts and from Congress. More precisely, however, it is not just one privilege but a variety of privileges. "One variety of the privilege," constitutional scholar Laurence Tribe explains, "is the state secrets privilege invoked by US Presidents, beginning with Washington, on the ground that the information is of such nature that its disclosure would subvert crucial military or diplomatic objectives. Another variety is the informer's privilege, or the privilege of the Government not to disclose the identity of persons who furnish information of violations of law to officers charged with the enforcement of that law. Pinally, a generic privilege for internal deliberations has been said to attach to intra-governmental documents reflecting advisory opinions, recommendations and deliberations comprising part of a process by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated."

ties he or she must face for such a decision. That is why a number of whistle-blowers eventually suc-Ruben M. Manatad

COMMENTARY

ing and commitment to genuine public service. We should extol sincerity and thumb down dishonesty and opportunism. It would be good for us to inculcate in our hearts and minds these words of President Manuel L. Quezon: "Poverty with honor is preferable to wealth with dishonto make a difference in the lives of others-that or."

Indeed, moral fortitude manufests itself in a simple and honest life. Og Mandino has this advice: "Learn to live with honest poverty, if you must, and turn to more important marrers, than transporting gold to your grave." The Holy Book also teaches that "An honorable person acts honestly and stands firm for what is right." (Isaiah

While promoting a culture of integrity in the public service, we must develop a culture of excellence in the work place. We must seek to rise above our weaknesses-institutional or personal-and vigorously aim for greatness. The primary consideration should be love of country, honest and efficient service to the people, not loyalty or graticude to the appointing authority.

This means putting up systems that encourage teamwork, creativity and critical thinking; professionalism, merit system, leadership and accountability; dynamic, progressive and inspiring leadership; free expression and active participation in the processes of decision-making. People

in government need to be empowered, too. At the same time, it is vital for the citizens of a

Public servant as a whistle-blower: reflections democratic country to assume a greater role in changing or reforming society. And any change

should reflect the sovereign will. The sovereign will may be expressed not only during elections but also in charting policies for better governance, greater transparency and greater accountability. This only underscores the fact that it is a people's inherent right to decide their own fate. Our experience has shown us that surrendering this right to our elected leaders has been a debacle, as politicians would rather protect their own interests first and foremost even before they represent the people's

For us in the bureaucracy, this dark hour of our country's existence is a defining moment. Shall we stand firm by our sacred oath to genuinely serve our people under the doctrine that public office is a public trust? Can we muster the courage to denounce corruption?

Or would we rather submit to a sense of powerlessness and remain indifferent, and thus turour backs on our obligation to bequeath to our children and the future generations of Filipinos a better Philippines and a brighter future? To remain numb to our people's anguish in the

midst of corruption is to conspire with the evil forces that are eating up our national body and soul. This is an act of betrayal-a betrayal of our people. And therefore, unforgivable

Edmund Burke said: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Ruben M. Manatad is the resident ombudsman of the National Food Authority in Region 8. He is one of those who exposed the switching of smuggled rice (confiscated in June 2002 by the Bureau of Customs in Hindang, Leyte) with sawdist.

Why revolts fail

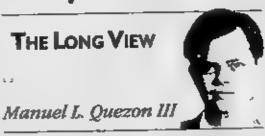
Century Hence," observed that, "All the petty insurrections that have occurred in the Philippines were the work of a few fanatics or discontented soldiers, who had to deceive and humbug the people or avail themselves of their powers over their subordinates to gain their ends. So they all failed. No insurrection had a popular character, or was based on a need of the whole race, or was fought for human rights or justice; so it left no ineffaceable impressions ... when they saw that they had been duped, the people bound up their wounds and applauded the overthrow of the disturbers of their peace! But what if the movement

causes upon their woes?" He was referring, of course, to all the previous revolts; he was pointing, in a sense, to the possibility-which became fact a few years after he wrote his essay—of a revolution for national, and not local, liberation. And yet the Philippine revolution, which Rizal branded as premature, failed,

springs from the people themselves and based its

Apolinario Mabini, summing up the fail of the First Republic, wrote, To sum it up, the Revolution failed because it was badly led; because its leader won his post by reprehensible rather than meritorious acts; because Instead of supporting the men most useful to the people, he made them useless out of jealousy. Identifying the aggrandizement of the people with his own, he judged the worth of men not by their ability, character and patriotism, but rather by their degree of friendship and kinship with him; and anxious to secure the readiness of his favorites to sacrifice themselves for him, he was tolerant even of their transgressions. Because he thus neglected the people, they forsook him; and forsaken by the people, he was bound to fall like a waxen idol melting in the heat of adversity."

Within the living memory of Filipinos today, there have been many notable rebellions, and on the whole, they have all failed. The Sakdalistas of the 1930s became the Makapilis of the 1940s, despised and hated by their countrymen; the Huk-



balahap movement, virtually knocking at the gates of Manila at one point, degenerated into banditry and brigandage; the New People's Army, proclaiming the historical certainty of victory since 1969, waits still for history to catch up with its propaganda-even as the country reacts to attempts to liquidate its leadership with scandalous indifference. Gregorio Honasan is once more in hiding, and over him and his methods continues to hover the shadow of a country that won't forgive his troops for killing bystanders in 1987

The fact remains, however, that the Sakdalistas, the Huks, the RAM, all failed; the NPA is nowhere near even the end of the beginning of its revolution. Of course, their enemy-the Philippine government and whoever they believe either assists it or props it up-has more arms, more soldlers and officers, more resources and foreign assistance; but these things are not enough to explain why, despite its many defects, the government is still here and its enemies are not. Rizal's and Mabinl's indictments remain as relevant today as they were when they were

In 1985, R Sionii Jose gathered four Huk veteran leaders-Casto Alejandrino, Jesus B. Lava, Pred Saulo and Luis Taruo-for a reunion of sorts, to discuss why the Huk rebellion failed. Alejandrino gave his reasons: class antagonism between the manual workers and the non-manual workers," particularly the workers' resentment against intellectuals. Out of this perpetual tension emerged another problem: the movement "wasn't able to create, develop, a leader who is good in fighting and at the same time is an intel-

Jesus Lava, on the other hand, put forward

four categories of errors he thought the movement committed. Pirst, he felt the Maoist strategy of surrounding the cities from the countryside was wrong. Second, seeing the United States had accepted communist rule in China made the Huks think the Americans could live with a communist victory in the Philippines. Third, the Huks suffered from a military deficiency: "We had no theoretical training in warfare techniques." Then, they were unable to replenish their losses in the field (in large part, because people were frightened by the government): Even "if the people were emotionally and psychologically predisposed, and intellectually convinced of the nobility and justice of our cause, they would rather stay out than become

involved in the struggle." Saulo's explanation was simpler. "We didn't know when to advance and when to retreat," he said, and admitted to a personal failure of nerve: "I had in mind the change of tactics from military struggle to parliamentary struggle, but I did not have the courage to present this to the authorities in the movement because I might be liquidated." He felt the Huks had an opportunity to make this change when President Quirino was fighting for his political life against Ramon Magsaysay. Taruc, for his part, said Saulo's fear of being killed, had he expressed criticism, showed one big cause for the Hules' failure: Dissent could earn you a bullet. Add to this a fetish for dogmanic purity which hurt many potential allies, including peasants. He said he opposed the proposition that "Those who are not with us are against us," and preferred the one that stated: "Those who are not against us

are with us." And yet, the overwhelming number of our people stubbornly insist on political solutions to economic and social problems: the ballot remains the magic bullet. For its adherence to this view, the public is portrayed as either selfish, or stily, or even suicidal. But what if the people are right? And those insisting on the other solutions are wrong? As Rizal asked, what then?

Comments welcome at www.queson.ph/blog



Where are advocates of oil deregulation?

NOWADAYS, ALmost everybody
agrees that Republic
Act 8479 or the Oil
Deregulation Act of
1998 must be reviewed in the face of
the non-stop escalation of oil prices and
the scandalous profits of major oil companies in the country.

The review should be immediately done if only to calm down the growing restiveness among our people who have to contend with new and/or higher taxes,

rising cost of living and an inept govern-

But we dare ask again, where are the advocates of the oil deregulation law? Where are the law-makers, present and past, who supported the passage of that law? Where are those who quickly refiled the oil deregulation bill when the Supreme Court nullified RA 8180 or the

Supreme Court nullified RA 8180 or the Oil Deregulation Act of 1996? They should be facing the public today and defend their centerpiece legislation.

Where is President

Ramos who certified the bill as priority administration measure? Where are the economists painted gloom-anddoom scenarios in the event Congress failed to pass the oil deregulation measure? Didn't they promise a better economy and open competition that will drive the oil prices down? What have we

got now? LETTERS ... }

millions, possibly billions, of taxpayers' money in committee meetings, public hearings, technical working groups and bicameral conferences in order to pass a law that is now proving to be disastrous to the economy

and to the lives of our

We challenge the adherents of oil deregulation who were amazingly optimistic about their economic projections to awaken from their slumber and come out of their holes and do a repeat performance—show an objective and scientific presentation of how or why oil deregulation would benefit the public

—RAYMOND
PALATINO,
president,
Kahataan
Sectoral Party,
mongpalatino
@gmail.com

Quotes and misquotes on phone project

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE NEWS ITEM headlined "Phones in \$20M village project don't have dial tones," written by Julie S. Alipala. (PDI, 4/9/06)

I would like to make the following correc-

1. Quoting me, she reported "that about 1,000 phone lines under the TSB project are not working in the peninsula." What I actually said was that there are about 1,000 TSB phone lines in Zamboanga, but I never said that none of them was working.

2. She also reported that I said, "Because of mismanagement, Congress decided to discontinue the project." To be precise, what I actually told her was that Congress decided not to fund the project any further. It was the Department of Transportation and Communications that decided to discontinue the project be-

cause of lack of funds.

3. Pinally, she quoted me as saying that my agency "was pursuing the TSB project using the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology." What I really said was that the TSB project has been discontinued. The VOIP project is an altogether separate project, not an expansion of the TSB project. As such, the VOIP project has nothing to do with the TSB

in addition, Alipala reported that I am the "assistant secretary for telecommunications." This gave the impression that I'm from the DOTC. The fact is, I have never worked at the DOTC in my whole life. I am an ex-officio commissioner of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and the assistant secretary of the Telecommunications Office. I have held this position since Dec. 9, a 2005, long after the events surrounding the implementation of the TSB project had transpired. I do not have any first-hand information about the implementation of the TSB project, having heard about it from other sources a serior of the TSB project, having heard about it from other sources.

only.

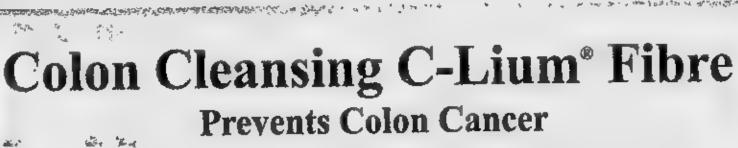
I am certain that the errors in Alipala's article are not intentional. Nevertheless, I hope for the timely publication of this letter to correct and clarify the inaccurate reports.

—FRANCISCO S. PEREZ II,
assistant secretary,
Telecommunications Office
and ex-officio commissioner,
Commission on Information
and Communications Technology,
A. Roces Avenue, Quezon City

According to my record of our conversation, Perez said that almost all of the 1,000 TSB lines in the Zamboanga peninsula do not work, that because of mismanagement, "Congress decided that it should discontinue the project"; that "TSB will use VOIP capability which is more cost effective especially if you use long distance calls." (He did not say the two are separate projects.) The story made no mention that he is with the DOTC.

—JULIE S. ALIPALA, *
correspondent, PDI Mindanao Bureau \(\)





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APPEAL TO GMA: STOP KILLINGS

Kin of slain activists to join protests



BARBECUE FESTIVAL MY B. LAMBRANCO POLINORTHERNILLIZON BUREALL Residents and visitors grill pork and milkfish among others during the Beggang ti Rang-ay Barbecue Festival, part of the fiesta celebration in Alcala, Pangasinan.

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LUCENA CITY—WITH THE RENEWED WAVE OF killings of activists, families of the victims will also join the protest march on Mendiola today to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to the series of murders of progressive leaders and members across the country, a top official of the partylist group Bayan Muna announced yesterday.

Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna national deputy secretary general said relatives of their slain members from Southern Tagalog and Eastern Visayas would march alongside with other protesters.

He said local chapters in Quezon and Bicol had also been getting in touch with families of the latest victims to be able to join sumed office in 2001. them in a collective condemnation of the killings.

The families believe that the killings were perpetrated by soldiers, but military authorities have strongly denied the charge.

A Bayan Muna activist in Quezon and five others were killed in different areas in Bicol since last

Figures from Karapatan, a militant human rights organization, show that at least 564 political killings had been recorded since President Macapagal-Arroyo as-

De Castro said Bayan Muna had lost 90 members since the start of the Arroyo administra-

We challenge Ms Arroyo to stop political hypocrisy by order-

(Oplan Bantay Laya) and dismantle all military death squads now sowing terror in all corners of the country," De Castro said.

He added that all political killings were products of a vicious conspiracy that purportedly involved Malacaffang and the mili-

De Castro also asked the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to "uphold life in

*Condemning political killings is a prophetic stand," he said in his appeal to one of the most influential voices in this predominantly Catholic country.

Bayan Muna challenged Congress and the Senate to conclude and make a stand on various human rights investigations conducted by their committees.

They should specifically compel the AFP to produce the J2 memorandum of Gen. Tirso Danga

dated Sept. 4 and 24," he said.

De Castro described the purported memorandum as "essentially a death warrant for the leaders of legal progressive organizations wrongly accused as CPP

The memo betrays Arroyo and her cabal of military generals as 2 the brains behind the web of MIG (Military Intelligence Group) agents who killed 564 activists.

De Castro said the wave of killings was in compliance with OBL," a purported military campaign to destroy the New People's Army and other leftist groups within five years with 2006 as the final year.

Armed Porces spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado has confirmed the existence of the OBL but stressed that it had nothing to do with legal lemst organizations. Delfin T. Mullari Jr., PDI Southern Luxon Bureau

Police file murder charges vs wounded labor leader

CALAMBA CTIY-CAVITE POLICE on Saturday said charges of frustrated and attempted murder had been filed against a labor leader who engaged a group of police mtelligence agents in a shootnut in linus, Cavite on Friday even as mili- Anabu. tants sought for an impartial investigation of the modent.

Imus police chief Supt. Efren Castro said they filed one count of frustrated murder and two counts of attempted murder against Gerardo Cristobal, 34, of Barangay Malagasang, Imus.

He said the charges had been filed at the provincial prosecutor's office in linus a few hours after the labor leader aliegedly ambushed SPO1 Romeo Lara and two others along the coastar road in Barangay

Castro said Cristobal had been placed under arrest and policemen had been guarding him at the Our Lady of Pillar Hospital, also in linus.

Both Cristobal and Lara were in stable condition after undergoing several operations, Castro and.

the intelligence division of his office, saying his men were on their way to an anti-illegal drugs operanon when the shooting hap-

"I don't know what really happened there, but the operation was in our blotter," Castro said over the phone.

Militant groups in Cavite pressed for a speedy and impartial investigation of the shooting lice of trying to conceal the

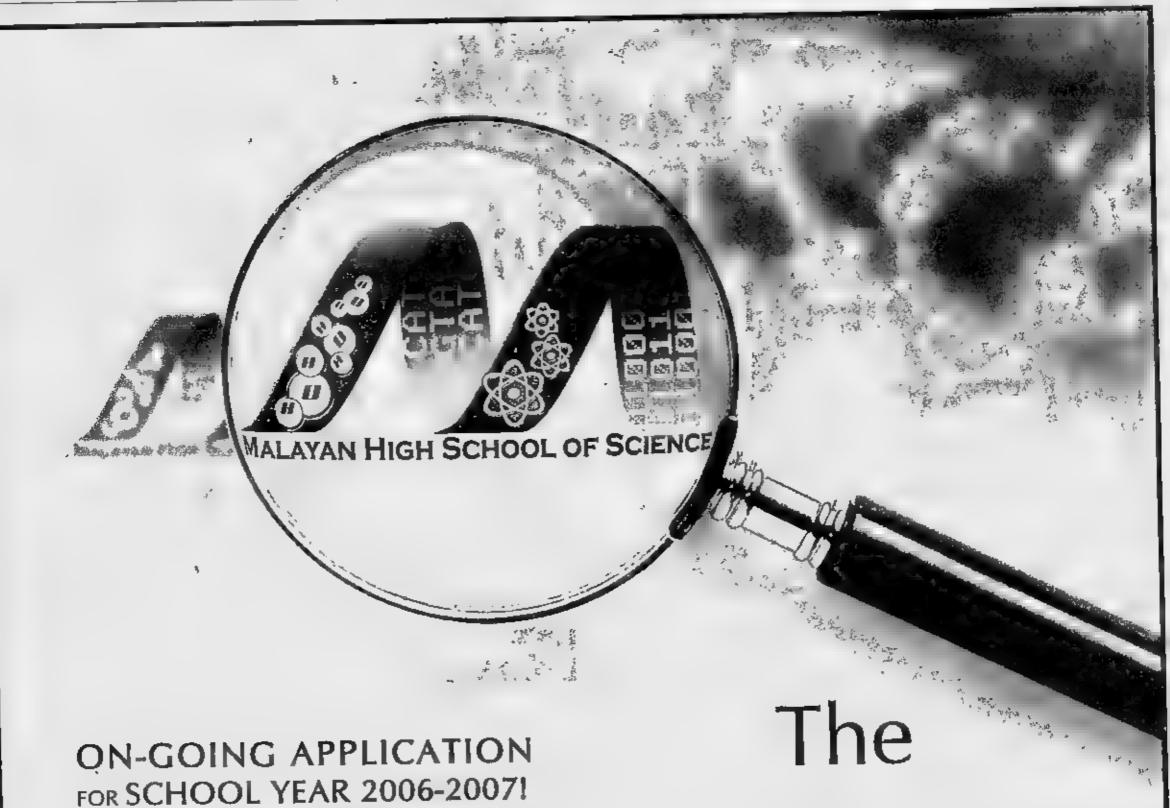
discovery

begins.

He defended Lara, the chief of wrongdoing of one of their mem-

Sheryl Villegas, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Cavite, said the statements made by Supt. Rodel Sermonia, intelligence chief of the Cavite police, were presponsible and

She said Sermonia's pronouncement in a radio interview that it was Cristobal who tried to hill Lara was an attempt to hide incident as they accused the po- the truth. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luson Bureau



Across the NATION

Negros Or. to get P90-M grant if it improves tax collection

By Romy Amarado PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY-NEGROS ORIental will receive around P90 million in grant from the European Union (EU) for a health program but under one condition. Improve tax collection efficiency to sustain the under-

Provincial treasurer Danilo Mendez said the EU would extend grants to 15 other provinces in the country that have given priority to health services by setting aside a said. bigger budget and institutionarized innovative and effective health programs

Negros Oriental has been implementing the so-called inter-local health zone, where contiguous lo-

improve the delivery of health ser-

Mendez said the grant would be used to purchase medicines, among other items.

But "the EU would like to have the program continued even if its financial support was already terminated. That is why, it wants the reciplent provinces to improve its tax collection efficiency as one of the conditions to receive the grant," he

Mendez said Negros Oriental must collect at least 50 percent of its delinquent real property taxes as its commitment to the EU.

"This year, we have to collect at least P50 milion of the P100 million Mendez said.

cal government units are clustered in delinquent real property taxes in and their resources are pooled to order for us to avail ourselves of the grant," Mendez said.

He admitted that it would be difficult to achieve this collection goal, but "if everybody shall cooperate, especially our municipal treasurers and public officials, there is no doubt that the amount can be collected,"

This is one of the reasons the provincial government has decided that pieces of real property with unpaid real estate taxes be publicly auctioned, Mendez said

Hopefully, the collection would have improved by the third quarter of this year when the EU would start releasing the amount directly to recipient provinces on a staggered basis,



INDIGENOUS ACCESSORIES

EV ESPIRITUVPOI NORTHERIN CUZON BURBALI The Kalinga women use unhusked rice as accessories in their headdress and skirts

during the recent Unoy Festival in Tinglayan, Kalinga.

ROUNDUP

Palaro lacks funds

LEGAZPI CITY---This year's Palarong Pambansa, which is set for May 7-13 and hosted by Bicol, is facing funding problems. One of its organizers, Amaparo de Mata, chief of the Department of Education's Elementary Division here, said in a ra-

dio interview on Wednesday that the airotted P54 million, which would be divided among the differ- 1 ent delegations, was not enough to meet their needs. The Bicol delegation was given only P1.5 million, atmost the same amount given to a provine cial delegation in the Paiarong Bicol.

Ephraim Agullar, POI Southern Luzon Bureau

Boy dies in collision

LUCENA CITY—An 11-year-old boy died and at least seven others were seriously injured after two -1 jaepneys collided along the national highway in Pitogo, Quezon on Friday. Police identified the fataily ly as Arjay Regencia, of Barangay Pidac, General 4 Luna, Michael Regencia, a relative of the victim, was, driving a jeep along the highway in Barangay Gangahin in Pitogo toward Macalelon at around 11 15 g a.m., overtook another vehicle and collided with an approaching jeep. All passengers of the two jeeps suffered serious injuries in different parts of the body and were rushed to the hospital Arlay was declared dead on arrival.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA rebel shot dead

_UCENA CITY—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed after he reportedly grabbed the gunof one of his captors in San Jose, Occidental Mindore on Friday Maj. Jose Brose, spokesperson of the Army's Southern Luzon Command, said Randy Sonano, alias Ka Rodolfo, Jun and Pablo, an alleged member of the NPA Lucio de Guzman Command in Mindoro, was being brought to the Army headquarters when he grabbed his captor's 45 car. pistor and jumped out of the vehicle. An Army soldier near the area fired at the victim and hit him in different parts of the body. Soriano died on the spot.

Deltin T Mallari Jr., POI Southern Luzon Bureau

6 dead in Bataan accident

BALANGA CITY-Six people, three of them childran, were killed on Thursday when a 10-wheel de ivery truck hit them and later burst into flames in Limay town, 30 km from here. Polica said the driver dentified as Mario Inzon, jost control of the steering wheel when it hit a rock along the Roman Expressway in Barangay Alangan at about 8.45 a.m. The truck then h.t. Maritess Ingo 24 her daughters Queen a, 2, and Aiguin, 1, and niece. Baby Grace, who were walking on the shoulder Police said inzon and his daughter were killed when the truck siammed a house and caught (.re.

Greg Retraction, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 suspected robbers stain CABANATUAN CITY-Three suspected highway robbers were k. led in a shootout with policemen in Stal Rosa, Nueva Edija, on Thursday Supt Ferdinand Vero, chief of the provincial Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said the suspects took at gunpoint a 10-wheel truck loaded with P800,000 worth of rice at a gasoline station here at: about 2:20 a.m. Thursday. He said the truck owner. Albert Castelo, 49, a rice trader from Rizal, Nueva Eella, told police that the robbers took his truck while he was resting at the gasoline station. Caste-(to said the robbers brought him to a van and dumped him on a road saveral kilometers from the station. About an hour later, Vero said, the truck was spotted along the Nueva Edija-Tarlac Road In Sta. Rosa, 12 km south of this city Reports said the robbers ignored signals for them to slow down? and fired at the policemen, prompting the latter to fire back. The suspects-Honorio Henobes, George Ardales and another man-died inside the truck that they hijacked

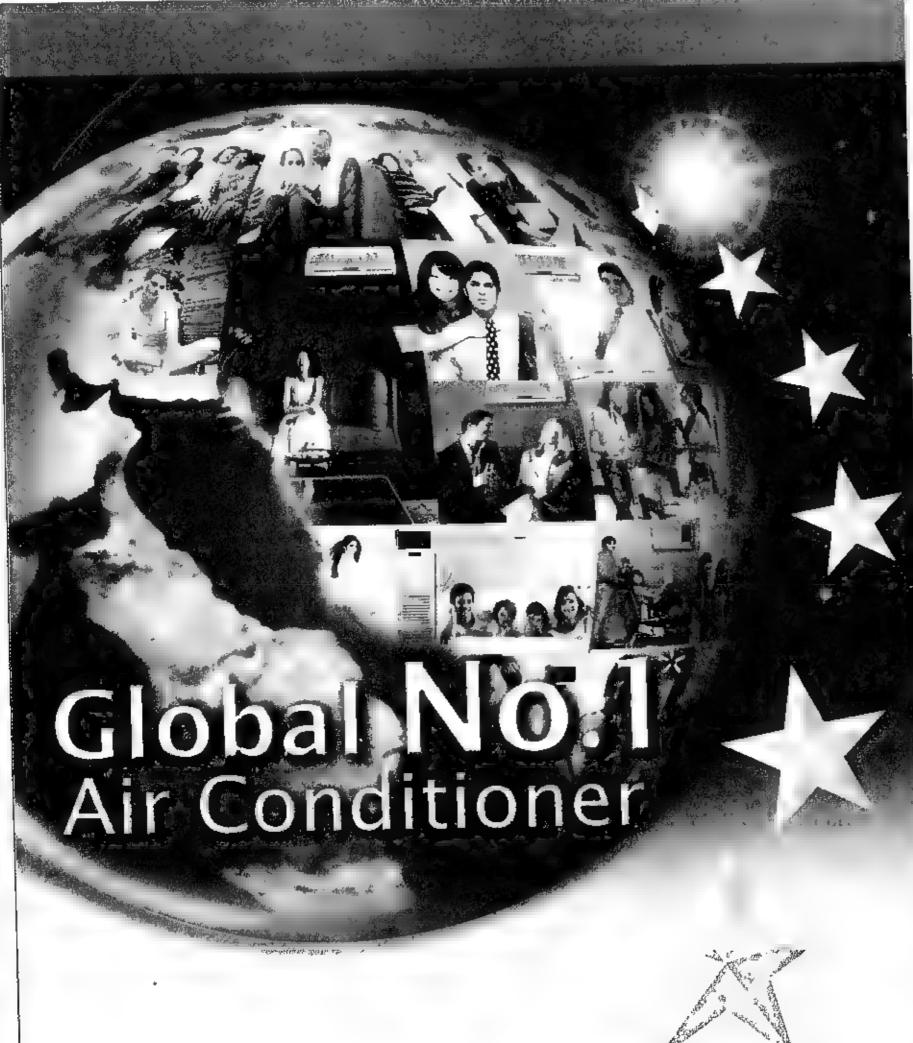
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fertilizer from trash

DUMAGUETE CITY-The Environment and Natural Resources Office here is now producing organic fertilizer from the biodegradable garbage it collects. City environment officer Begallo Clamonte said his office was pro-

ducing 60 bags of organic fertilizer in 45 days, which it sold for P50 per bag or P2,50 per 300 grams. He said the process involved feeding earthworms with biodegradable waste.

Earthworm manure becomes the organic fertilizer Mostly city employees buy the fertilizer he said. Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Buread

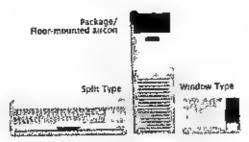


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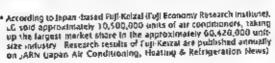
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does not sleep."

BACOLOD CITY—"THE THREAT

The President said the con-

shown when the Philippine Na-

to disrupt today's Labor Day

plot, which shows our stead-

ists." she told a national con-

ference of the Vice Mayors'

League of the Philippines.

na City on Thursday.

Across the NATION

5 farmers missing in S. Tagalog The two were reported seen were inviting farmers to join the ling the protest actions," Cuario

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

She said the government would not allow terrorists to This was stressed here by creep into the metropolis and vowed that, together with local President Macapagal-Arroyo government officials, it would on Friday as she called on local flush out terrorists from their government officials to remain lairs in urban areas and far-flung vigilant against terrorist activi-

We must be constantly on alert ... Let us never be cowed by tinued threat was dearly the disciples of anarchy as we uptional Police seized a cache of hold constitutional order and the explosives reportedly intended rule of law at all cost," she said.

Ms Arroyo turned over P2.1 million to Veronica Mondejar, a demonstrations in a suspected representative of the Revolution-Abu Sayyaf Indeout in Marikiary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade Poundation, for "I congratulate the PNP for averting yet another terror the group's livelihood fund.

The donation was part of her administration's commitment to fast vigilance against terrorthe peace process with the RPA-ABB, she said. Carla & Gomes. PDI Visayas Bureau

LUCENA CITY-TWO CAVITE peasant activists and three Batangas farmers have been declared missing since Friday and were believed to have been abducted by the military, according to an offi-

cial of the militant human rights

group Karapatan. Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, identified the missing farmer leaders as Riel Custodio and Axel Pinpin, both of the Kahpanan ng Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng

with Aristides Sarmiento, Rico Ibañez and a certain Michael, all farmers from Tanauan City, near the boundary of Tagaytay City, Cuario said.

Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, denied that the military was responsible for the disappearance of the five farmers.

He said his office had not received any report about the inci-

"The past week, Riel and Axel

Labor Day protest caravan. The said. last time that they made contact was on Friday. They said they were with the three farmers," Cuario said.

The Karapatan leader suspected that military elements were behind the disappearance of the

Abduction

The military has been conducting disinformation campaign to sabotage the protest mobilization. They now resort to abduction to instill fear and prevent more farmers from join-

"Karapatan should just exert more effort to locate their missing members and not quickly point their accusing fingers at the military," Broso said. "Their perpetual accusation has now become a comical

Efforts to locate the missing persons in different police stations and military camps proved funile, Cuarro said,

At least seven other farmers from Batangas province have "mysteriously disappeared" since January, according to Cuarlo.

Task force to speed up probe of farmer's killing

GMA: Gov't to flush out

terrorists from their lairs

del Norte have created the Task Force Cabanit to speed up investigation and arrest of suspects in the April 24 killing of peasant leader

Enrico Cabanit in Panabo City. Cabanit, 54, secretary general of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasariling Lokal na Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka), was shot and killed by two men at the Panabo public market at around 6

His daughter, Daffodil, who

was also hit during the attack. Cabanit "struggled for the full implementation of the comprehensive agrarian reform program and up until his death, he was hoping, although there was a little frustration, that the poor will be given land," said Rosauro Tapal, Unorka chair in Mindanao.

Provincial police chief Semor Supt. Jame Morente said Cabanit's death could be related to land is-

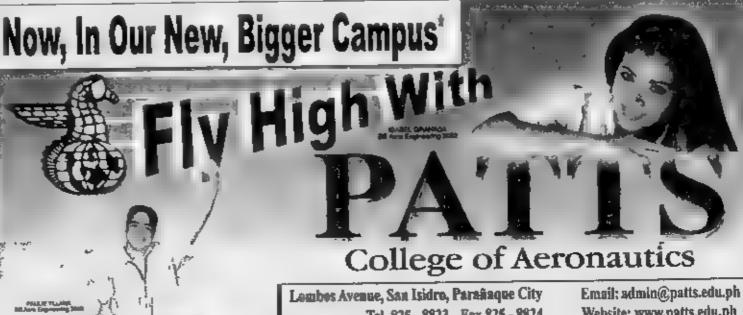
DAVAO CITY-POLICE IN DAVAO sues. The motive and identities of the suspects were still being determined, he said.

Cabanit was among the retrenched workers of Tagum Development Corp., a banana company owned by the family of Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo. He had been pushing for the distribution of the land occupied by the

Richard Uajan, lawyer for the Floirendos, said his clients could not understand why they were being implicated in Cabanit's

"The Floirendos did not have a quarrel with the victim. We are saddened by this incident and we welcome any investigation about this," Uajan said.

Cabanit, the fourth peasant leader killed this month, will be buried today. Jeffrey M. Tupas and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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On-going

Across the NATION

Sierra Madre natives in Quezon flee homes

LUCENA CITY-AN UNDETERmined number of mountain villagers, including Agta natives, living in the slopes of Sierra Madre in General Nakar, Quezon have left their homes since April 23 for fear of being caught in the crossfire between government forces and communist New People's Army rebels.

General Nakar Mayor Leovigildo Rozul said the mass evacuation started after the killing by unidentified men of Bayan Muna

member Marilou Rubio and her brother on April 22 in Barangay Magsikap.

"Agta natives and Tagalog settiers from the mountain have sought shelter in their relatives' houses in the poblacion. They are afraid of getting caught in the middle once patrolling Army soldiers engage NPA rebels," Rozul said in a phone interview.

The mayor said soldiers had been conducting frequent combat patrols in search of guerrillas.

He quoted Magsikap's barangay chief as saying that almost half of the residents had sought refuge in town.

Fr. Pere Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development (TCD), said the Agta had moved to the TCD building in Infanta town.

He identified the deserted Agta settlements as Sitio Anibongan in Barangay Magsikap, Sitio Tamala

Sitio Malatunglan in Barangay Sablang.

I was told that the natives from Sitlo Malatungian now stay on the seashore," the priest said.

Lusing Kapatasan, Agta chieftain in Anibongan, said he had received information that he was included in the military's order of battle as suspected NPA civilian ally.

That's why I immediately left home and my farm, and stayed in Infanta. I'm not afraid of my safe-

in Barangay San Marcelino, and ty but of my people," he said in a phone interview.

Southern Luzon Command snokesperson Mal. Jose Broso blamed the rebels for the exodus.

"They have been spreading deceiving and malicious information that the military was behind the murders (of a leftist activist and her brother) when in fact, the killings were perpetrated by their own killer squad," he said.

Montallana said the natives were concerned not only with their

safety but also with their farms.

"This is harvesting and planting season for the natives. They N have to stay in their farms or else-o face the prospect of one wholeni year of uncertainty and depriva-1) tion," he said.

The priest has called on gov-70 ernment and rebel forces to re-31 spect the "peace zones" that they h declared in 2004, which encom-M pass the Real-Infanta-General Nakar area. Delfin T Mulluri Jr., 11 PDI Southern Luson Bureau

Negros Occ. 1 opens door to small town lottery

By Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—NEGROS OCCIDEN-" tal is the first local government in the Visayas that wants to embrace the operation of the Small Town Lottery (STL) in its locality.

Philippine Charity Sweep-in stakes Office (PCSO) Visayas-in Mindanao manager Williamol Medici said the provincial board had passed a resolution asking the agency to operate the STL in the province.

Medici said the resolution^{c)} had been forwarded to the PC-SO central office and its board 12 of directors had already ap-x proved the STL operation in the province.

"There is no definite date yet as if to when the operation will start, but the PCSO board has already approved it," Medici said.

Capital

Medici said it might take some time for the STL to operate in a province or city be-1) cause those applying to oper-10 ate the lottery would be required by PCSO to put up a'H paid-up capital of P20 million. W

hire personnel who would serve as "ushers" or bet collectors for the whole province or city, Medical

The results of the game will'q differ from every locality because the draw is localized, he said

Medici stressed that the PCSO would only operate the STL in all province or city after its provin-m cial board or city council hadid passed a resolution inviting the25 agency to operate the project in (their place.

No force

Medici assured the public that !! the PCSO would not force the fl STL project in areas where local^M officials are opposed to it.

In Cebu City, for example, local officials, including Mayor Tomas q Osmeña, have strongly objected d to the entry of the STL.

But Medici said local govern-42 ments should realize that the goal of of operating the STL in provinces and cities "is still to do what is"?

good for the people." The LGUs, he said, would be it getting their share from opera-A

tions in their areas. Medici said the Philippine Na-11

tional Police would also have its 12 own share from the STL proceeds " to be used for its social projects.

29 geologists doing geohazard mapping in Leyte, Biliran

By Vicente S. Labro PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY-A TEAM OF 29 GEOLOgists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau has been deployed to conduct a geohazard survey of critical batangays in Leyte and Bili-

The move came after an assessment in Southern Leyte showed that 94 percent of the villages in the province were disaster-prone.

Adriano Puego, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense, on Friday told the Inquinen that a recent MGB rapid geohazard assessment survey in Southern Leyte revealed that 104 barangays in that province had a high incidence of landslide susceptibility.

He said 142 others had moderate landslide susceptibility and 208, low landslide susceptibility.

Few safe villages

Only 15 barangays were found safe from landslides, Puego said, citing a report of the MGB central office dated April 9, 2006, that was submitted to the National Disaster Coordinaring Council.

The report disclosed that 468 of the 497 barangays in Southern Leyte were susceptible not only to landslides but also to floods.

Villages found to be highly susceptible to landslides were those in Maasin City and the rowns of San Francisco, Liloan, San Ricardo, St. Bernard and Sogod.

Southern Leyte has been repeatedly hit by killer landshdes, which have claimed hundreds of lives. Badly hit on Feb. 12 were Barangay Agas-agas in Sogod town, where seven persons were buried alive, and Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard on Feb. 17, where more than a thousand people were killed when a mudshde covered the whole village with mud and big boulders.

In December 2003, some 150 people died in landslides that hit San Ricardo and San Francisco towns, also in Southern Leyte.

Technical team

The MGB team now conducting a rapid geological assessment in Leyte and Biliran is composed of technical personnel from the agency's central and regional offices in the llocos, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao and Eastern

MGB-Eastern Visayas Director Loreto B. Alburo is the overall project coordinator, while Salvio Lasema, a supervising science research specialist from the central office, is the field coordinator, MGB-8 information officer Delia Abasolo said in a press release.

The geohazard survey in the two provinces started on April 18 and will end on May 15,

She said that a village noted to have high landslide risks would be presented a Landslide Threat Advisory, to inform the barungay of its susceptibility to landslides or floods. Recommendations on what actions to take in case of emergency would also be given to the village, she added.



SAND CASTLES IN BORACAY

This man puts the finishing touches on a sand castle he built on the beach of Boracay. Groups or individuals who construct such castles collect contributions from people who take souvenir photos of their creations and earn about P200 a day.

MGB wants quarrying stopped at Luisita

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO-THE MINES juangeo family in Tariac. and Geostiences Bureau in Central Luzon has recommended a stop to quarrying activities at the Hacienda Luisita due to some violations and as the government of the SCTEP. prepares land distribution at the sugar es-

Regional Director Angel Bravo signed the recommendation on April 24, MGB mines division regional chief Reynaldo Cruz said on Wednesday during a dialogue with government officials and leaders of the United Laisita Workers Union (Ulwu) here.

Sand extracted from some areas inside the hacienda are being used in the Japanese-funded Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP).

Cruz said the order would cover Rio Grande Builders and Aggregates Corp. and all other quarry operators within the 5,938-hectare estate owned by the Co-

The order, he said, would be addressed to Hazama Corp., a member of the joint venture building the Clark-Tarlac portion

Hazama and Hacienda Luisna Inc. have entered into a memorandum of agreement allowing the former to quarry sand within the estate for a year until November 2006. It was based on that document that the Tarlac provincial government issued Rio Grande a three-month special permit.

Rio Grande is the only company that got such permit, indicating that other quarry firms at the estate have been operating illegally.

DENR agencies have joined in settling the row as Ulwu leaders, in an April 11 dialogue with the Department of Agrarian Reform, sought an end to quarrying activities.

"These [activities] are destroying the lands that are covered for distribution to

farm workers," Ulwu president Rene Galang said

According to the union, the quarry activities cover 14 hectares in Asturias, 17 ha in Bantug, seven ha in Cutcut, all on the Tarlac City side of the estate; 40 ha in Mabiling, 20 ha in Pasajes, and five ha in Parang, all on the Concepcion side.

Citing last week's investigation by the MGB, Cruz said the company took sand outside of the five-hectare area covered by its permit in Asturias. It did not have an environmental clearance certificate from the EMB, he said.

The probe confirmed the illegal quarrying in Bantug and other parts of Asturias. In an April 24 memorandum, the environment and natural resources office of the provincial government said "indiscriminate quarrying" by Rio Grande was found in Asturias and Bantug. Tonette Orejas,

PDI Central Luxon Desk

American firm to plant coconut oil substitute

By Alex V. Pal PDI Visayas Bureau

VALENCIA, NEGROS ORIENTAL-AN American company looking for a substitute for eoconut oil is planting 18,000 hecsares of land in southern Negros Oriental to Jetropa, commonly known as "tuba-tuba."

This poisonous weed, which thrives on rocky and hard soil, is believed to lead the country in its quest for cheaper fuel alternatives in view of the escalating prices of

Paul A. Aquino, president of the Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Develop-

ment Corp. (PNOC-EDC), said the American company would be planting the Jetropa inside the 133,000-ha Southern Negros Geothermal Project Reservation, which is government land, in the next few

He declined to name the American

Three kilos of Jetropa would yield one liter of oil, an ideal substitute to coconut

Coconut oil has been ruled out as a viable alternative because the price of coconut oil, which is vital in the production of biodiesel, has gone up.

"What's good about this crop is that it is poisonous and therefore not fit for human consumption. And this is native to Negros Oriental, along with 38 other varieties,

Agumo said. "We need to plant five milion hectares of Jetropa if we have to substitute all diesel consumption in the country," Aquino said. A 10-percent substitution would require only 500,000 ha of land.

To be viable, it must be grown only in

You cannot plant Jetropa in private land where you have to pay lease that would be a losing venture," Aquino said.

organization's world view in the consorts of the jungles.

Mayor Saudi Ampanian Jr. of Datu their sources remained firm about Saudi Uy Ampatuan town in Maguindanao said Muslims should instead fair treatment and objectivity. assert objectivity of presentation, not only by the media, but also by news sources, particularly on the issue of terrorism. minaret of another mosque having Ampatuan instead cautioned news

been attacked with gunfire. sources against a "double-standard" application of the word "terrorism." He cited the powerful explosion on a roadside that killed his father, then the

"If such is the case, we might as well change the dictionary or encyclopedia meaning of the words 'terrorism' and 'vigilante.' It's like saying we can't call this or that black because it's the ace of flowers and not of

Muslims, for their part, should also speak louder in condemning terror-

cartoonist, why not the source of his

ferring to the outrage created by the so-called Mohammad carroons. Another Muslim lawyer pieced sad

tales of Muslim experiences from terror labeling, not mainly by media but by sources of news stories among law enforcers. He said that aside from the indiscriminate "warrantiess arrests" of sus-

pected Muslim individuals, news sources usually failed to identify victims of terrorism if they were Muslims, as what happened in the recent bombing of a cooperative convenient store The lawyer, who asked not to be

identified, challenged the media to do comparative reports on incidents of attacks "with the magnitude and characteristics of terrorism" when victims were non-Muslims. "And what about the Good Friday

rocket bomb attack that killed nine residents of Indanan, Sulu with Muslimsounding names. How do we call that [attack]?" the lawyer asked. Nosh B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fair media treatment on 'terrorism' urged COTABATO CITY-MUSLIMS DO NOT on motives rather than on the nature misimpression and misimpression and misimpression by other non-Muslims?" he said, reof the attack, "although, the media really need time slots for religious afmay not be entirely at fault here." fairs to assert "fair" media treatment, City Councilor Anwar Malang, a according to local critics of intolerance lawyer, said nobody should be afraid and discrimination. of labeling as long as the media and

Malang recalled that following the 2003 bombings in Davao City, Muslim residents complained of bombs lobbed outside a mosque or the

> But news reports had it that the unidentified attackers were merely

spades," Malang said.

ism, he added. "If we can condemn a newspaper

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal continues to speak of his

the basis of a roughly drawn theory

Ampatuan said bombings which

victimize Muslims were reported on

mayor of Datu Piang, Maguindanao,

the attack, being that of terrorism,

was not emphasized in the news re-

port, as compared to those on similar

incidents that occurred in big cines,

Instead, he said, a motive-poli-

tics-was quickly established.

He said the nature and impact of

and 15 others on Dec. 24, 2002.

67,000 labor cases unresolved, says group "People's Choice By Blanche S. Rivera Every month, at least an additional 35 cases. Marcel 25.

Labor has priority over capital, says CBCP head

WHILE SOME 50,000 WORKERS MAKE NOISE on the streets today, 67,000 labor cases lie stlent in the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).

Up to 70 percent or seven out of 10 cases concern violations of labor laws, including employers' refusal or failure to give their workers the mandated wages and benefits, the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) said, citing government records.

The NLRC has only 54 labor arbiters nationwide to review the 67,000 pending cases.

From page A1 plus a P50 emergency cost-of-living al-

lowance. This brought the daily minimum

labor, including representatives of the in-

"We expect a can-

did exchange of

views on how to pro-

mote job security, decent work and income extenders, especially to those

earning the minimum wage and be-

Also yesterday, the House committee on labor and employment called on businessmen

to stop sounding the layoff scare and in-

stead come up with

The committee al-

low," he said.

better wages.

formal sector."

are filed with the NLRC.

"Labor justice is needed here, although the Philippines is already bester off than our neighbors in Asia," FFW chief legal counsels Sonny Matula said in a press briefing.

Each case takes an arbiter at least six months to a year to resolve. They are then usually appealed to the NLRC commissioner or the Court of Appeals, Matula said

He said most of those who filed cases against were educated enough to know their rights.

ment that "plays deaf, dumb and blind," Cruz

They are repeatedly told that the peso in

said in a statement.

Dip in union membership

caused a decline in the number of workers in the Philippines who belong to labor unions, the National Mediation and Concibation Board (NMCB) said.

Only around 12 percent or 1.9 million of the 16 million formal sector workers are their employers were members of unions or members of unions or organized labor groups, a smaller population than in the

They are loudly informed that the national

economy is improving fast. Yet their family eco-

nomics is deteriorating even faster. They are told

and the global economy. More people would rather be independent contractors or en-New work arrangements, however, have trepreneurs than employees," NCMB Executive Director Hans Cacdac said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum on Saturday.

The FFW urged President Macapagal-Azroyo to certify as urgent the pending bulls in the Senate and House of Representatives that seek to strengthen the NLRC and enable it to hire more arbiters to hasten the resolution of

made to march in the streets to fight for in-

He urged the government and business-

creased wages and benefits.

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men to take it upon themselves to find ways to be thrifty as if thrift for them were an option." their hands is becoming more and more valuto provide the workers with their just share of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Bunye said Ms Arroyo will hold a "tradiable, yet the same peso they have buys less Rosales said earlier that workers shouldn't be the fruits of their labors. tional dialogue with key leaders of organized and less," he said.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2005 DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

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PAR EXCELLENCE

so pushed for proposals to further cut the workers' tax burden and provide other nonwage benefits.

Acceptable hike

Representatives Roseller Barinaga (Nationalist People's Coalition, Zamboanga del Norte) and Ernesto "Bansai" Nieva" (Liberal Party, Manila), committee chair and vice chair, respectively, said employers and workers should find a compromise for an acceptable wase in-

crease. Philippine The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has warned that the across-the-board daily wage hike of P125 being pushed by labor and militant groups would cripple the economy, raise inflation and cause unemploy-

ment. "The House has passed a tax break bill which, hopefully, the Senate will consider as urgent," he said.

He was referring to separate bills authored by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda and Jesli Lapus which seek to readjust the tax brackets so that minimum wage earners would be exempted from the withholding tax.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said there had not been any legislated wage increase since 2001, when President Macapagal-Arroyo took over from Joseph Estrada.

perennial mass actions marking Labor Day in the country were indicative of something "very wrong" in the Philippines, gayen-Dagupan

Archbishop Cruz, a former president of the bishops conference, said yesterday.

Deaf, dumb, blind

Saddled by low wages and funderhanded treatment," workers plead and bargain for more benefits and better working conditions, only to get no reaction from a governOther 2005 Awardees:

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Labor Day protest rallies set in the Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-THOUSANDS OF protesters are expected to mass in the streets of Ilono, Capiz, Aklan, Negros Occidental and Cebu for Labor Day protests today.

In Iloilo City, around 2,000 Kalibo, Aklan. protesters led by the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan are expected to hold a rally at the Rotary Amphitheater before marching down the main streets.

Similar rallies are expected in Roxas City in Capiz and in tion campagn for Charter change.

In Cebu, about 1,500 workers, drivers and farmers plan to hold a protest march and conduct a signature drive to push for a P125 acrossthe-board wage increase, the release of militant leader Rep. Crispin Beltran and an end to the administra-

But the Associated Labor board wage increase. Union Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) in Cebu will not join the rally.

Instead, the members of the country's biggest labor group will attend a mass at the St. Joseph the Worker Chapel. The group is demanding a P75 across-the-

Labor Day in Negros Occidental will be marked by four separate railies by different militant groups.

Thousands of mintant workers from the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) region will also hold rallies in different parts of Southern

Tagalog to press the government for economic rettef.

He said the workers decided to hold their railies in the Calabarzon region, and not in Metro Manila, "to show the capitalists in the region how united we are." Delfin T. Maliam Jr., PDI Southern Luson Bureau

Labor Day showdown

with our pants down," military spokesperson Brig. Gen Jose Angel Honrado said on the phone.

Earlier this week, an opposition source had told the INQUIRER about an alleged "Oplan Manggagawa" plot calling for street protests on Labor Day culminating in an attack by rebel soldiers and police on Malacafiang and the installation of a new president by 5 p.m.

There was no independent confirmation of the document, which opposition lawmakers had branded as a Malacañang fabrication and which the Palace said was too grandlose a piot to be

Ms Arroyo was expected to meet last night with members of the Cabinet security cluster, Jusnce Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

"Our analysis as of last week is that they (destabilizers) dont have the capability," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

Caught by surprise

Yesterday morning's attempt by about 200 protesters to occupy the Edsa Shrine caught Eastern Police District units by surprise since they were preparing to deploy to the area only in the afternoon.

The militants belonging to Bayan-Southern Tagalog arrived in 18 passenger jeeps and suddenly gathered near the shrine on the boundary of Mandaluyong and Quezon City.

Rally organizers said the protesters, carrying "GMA Resign Now" banners, included youth teader Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, who had heckled Ms Arroyo in a graduation ceremony in Cavite.

Tensions rose when the protesters started to march toward the shrine grounds just as the policemen prepared to drive

at any magical control of the first of the section of the section

was later briefly detained.

"This is private property. They don't have any permission to hold a rally here," district director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino said.

Some protesters tried to unfurl a streamer, and a policeman grabbed and took off with it. At least four protesters gave chase.

Still carrying the streamer, the policeman ran into Mercury Drug at Robinson's Galleria and the security guards shut the door.

But the protesters pushed at the door, wanting their streamer back. The glass door shattered.

'Do they want blood?'

A priest celebrating Mass at the shrine came outside and asked the protesters to go elsewhere for their rally, according to a police account.

They can only hold a rally in a private place as long as they have permission from the owner But church officials did not give them permission," Aiejandrino said.

The protesters soon agreed to leave, proceeding to the nearby People Power Monument, a free-

The police vowed not to allow protesters to get near Malacañang.

"What is it really that they want?" police spokesperson Semor Supt. Samue. Pagdi, ao said. "Do they really want to draw blood? To provoke the government? They're testing the law."

Pagdilao said the government had granted rally permits for Plaza Miranda and Liwasang Bomfacio in Manila to show that it allowed the people to speak their minds.

But to march on Mendsola would violate Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, or the law on pubuc assembly, since no permit had been granted for a rally there, he said.

From two to four people were killed near Mendiola in May Day protests in 2001 when thousands them away. One raily marshal of supporters of deposed Press for an armed [attack] to topple ing-class groups (especially the

المال المجالة الموالية الموالية

dent Joseph Estrada stormed the Palace gates to protest his arrest.

Yesterday, a small group of Estrada's supporters was briefly allowed by police to lay a wreath "in honor of fallen comrades" at Mendiola.

Linggoy Alcuaz and Ronald Lumbao of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) led 20 others in laying flowers at the foot of the Chino Roces monument to remember those who died in the May 2001 clashes.

Today's protests would be the first major street challenge to Ms Arroyo since the Supreme Court last week struck down as unconstirunonal the administration's calibrated preemptive response policy which allowed police to forcibly break up demonstrations.

Workers' demands

Besides opposing canang-backed moves to change the Consumition and set up a parhamentary system of government, labor groups are also pressing for a P125 wage increase, wider tax exemptions and other relief packages, as well as an end to trade umon and political repression.

"Obviously, the play is to make a lot of noise about violence while keeping silent about workers' gnevances," Partido Manggagawa

Rep. Renato Magnubo said, referring to Defensor's statement that Malacañang might reimpose a state of national emergency if today's protests escalated into an armed threat against the government.

They are also protesting the filing of rebellion charges against six militant lawmakers and demanding the release of detained Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran

The daily minimum wage, with allowances, for workers in Metro Manila is P325, less than half the recommended P690 daily cost of living for a family of six in the region.

Some workers' groups will start their protest today with a wreath-laying for Andres Bonifacio before marching to Mehan Garden, and on to Liwasang Bonifacio.

Others will assemble at Plaza Moriones, Plaza Miranda, T.M. Kalaw Avenue and Plaza Lacson and then march to Liwasang Bottifacto, where they will hear a recorded message from Beltran and have a phone patch with the Batasan 5 lawmakers who have been given protective custody by the House. These are Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beuran, Rafael Manano, Teodoro Casmo, Joel Virador and Lzza Maza.

To show their solidarity with Filipino workers, various international groups plan to march with Militants train to counter PNP dispersal tactics

RIOT POLICE, BEWARE.

Truncheons and water cannons may have worked wonders in dispersing rallies in the past, but today's Labor Day protests just might be different.

Militants vesterday said they were now ready to take on abusive policemen with their newly learned taekwondo and karate moves.

They call it the Basic Antidispersal Training.

Leaders and staff of leftwing militant groups conduct ed a two-hour crash course in basic self-defense at the University of the Philippines in Dilman, Quezon City, anticipat

ing possible violence in today's protests.

The trainer was Noel Matematico, a veteran martial arts practitioner who is also a local leader of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town in Rizal

He taught the militants how to deflect blows from truncheons, as well as how to mamtain their ranks against the onslaught of water cannons.

A group of protesters even simulated a police line, complete with sticks similar in size and thickness to the batons used by police. DJ Yap

them today. They include labor advocates from Taiwan, Australia, Denmark, Beigium, the United States, Canada, South Korea, Hong Kong and Nepal.

Thousands of workers and militant youths are also expected to hold processs in different parts of the country, from Luzen to Mindanao. In Mindanao, rally organizers said they expected 60,000 people to take part in marches and railies.

Among places where profests are planned for today are the

Baguio-Cordillera area, Pampanga, Nueva Eci,a, Bulacan, Tarlac, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Rizal, Naga, Albay, Masbate, Cebu, Negros, Leyte Iloilo, Davao, Misamis Oriental, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Agusan, Surigao and Zamboanga de. Norte. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Blanche S. Rivera, Michael Lim Ubac, Leila S. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz in Martila; and the PDI Visayas Bureau

Workers warned on agenda of middle class

From page A1 of the security highlight of to-

day's celebration.

The administration has put the security forces on high alert in the wake of scare reports of plans of another power grab, and warned it would reimpose the emergency proclamation if Labor Day demonstrations became violent and would "turn out to be a cover

There is nothing the government can do to stop workers from celebrating their day, but under this state of insecurity and nervousness on the part of a regime under siege, there is danger that, first, disturbances in the streets would be used by the government as an excuse to clamp repressive measures and, second, nonwork-

rables and use them as feeding trough to promote middle-class interests unsympathetic to those of the working class.

The administration has already tried to prepare the mind of the public to ank the Left to any disturbance with the warning of President Macapaga, Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, that it had received reports that the political opposition and the Left had hatched a plot, cailed "Oplan Manggagawa," to topple the President on Labor Day.

According to press reports, the plan called for marches on Edsa, gatherings of opposition leaders and church groups, and attacks by rebellious soldiers and police on Malacañang.

Excuse for crackdown?

The mainstream opposition has denied the existence of such a plot and, from all appearances, the government seemed to be laying the ground to use Labor Day incidents as an excuse to crack down on both the Left and the mainstream opposition.

It is entirely possible that leftist and working-class groups can mobilize up to 30,000 or even more protesters in Manila, let alone the urban centers in the provinces. This size of protest would put to shame what middleclass militants have been able to marshal in their rallies over the past eight months to demand the resignation of Ms Arroyo.

Mass muscle

The Left and the working class have provided mass muscle for the middle class-led rallies on Edsa and in Makati City. Because of their ability to mobilize warm bodies, the Left and working class could be used today by the regime as scapegoat for disturbances in the streets, and by the middle-class militants as cannon fodder and shock troops against riot police.

What will be put to test in the streets today is the issue of how much restraint the government will use in breaking up demonstrations in the wake of a Supreme Court decision on April 25 declaring unconstitutional the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

It "has no place in our legal firmament and must be struck down as a darkness that shrouds freedom," said the decision. "It merely confuses our people and is used by some police agents to justify abuses."

Riding on street protests

The court directed the govern- of the clite.

middle classes) would ride the ment to refram from using the CPR and instead strictly observe maximum tolerance, which sintended by law for the benefit of protesters and not of govern-

But the government has warned militant groups against testing its patience, saying the ruling "was not a carte blanche for fomenting anarchy and desta-Dilization.

It said: "We must warn those who intend to overthrow the government not to test the mettle of authorines, who will move forcefully in case of a clear and present danger to the Republic."

It is also entirely possible that militant middle-class groups would ride on the working-class rallies. Should there be a united front between them, the working class will not benefit from this broad coalition to push the middle classes' demand to topple the government.

Bearing the brunt

Under no ercumstances should the working class allow the middle classes to hijack from the workers the agenda of the streets, especially on Labor Day.

in the case of a crackdown by a nervous and paranoid government, the working class and the Left will feel its brunt, more than the middle classes, especially

those entrenched in Congress. Thus, it would be to the best interests of the working class to separate uself from the agenda of the middle classes and promote workers' interests independent of the politics of the middle-class militants, whose agenda is now focused on blocking the so-called people's initiative campaign for constitutional change sponsored by the Arroya administration.

Avoiding same mistake

"People power," largely a middle-class movement, has not benefited the ideological objectives of the Left and the underclasses of Philippine society.

The Left boycotted the 1986 *People Power* revolution—a boycott that left them out in the cold in reomenting Philippine society. It should not compound that historic mistake by entering into any kind of tactical alliance with the middle classes. Such an alliance has reduced the Left as shock absorbers of the crackdown of a repressive government.

The Left should make today a historic turning point of their rupture with the middle classes that have used the working class as cutting edge in the conflict between the "in" and "out" factions



Vatican leader calls for 'Da Vinci' boycott

comments in a speech at the Pontifical Holy Cross University, which is run by the conservative Catholic movement Opus Dei, the Ansa news agency reported.

agency quoted Amato as saying.

He said the film, based on the best-selling novel by Dan Brown, was full of "offenses, slander, historical and theological errors concerning Jesus, the Gospel and the Church."

"Slander, offenses and errors that if they were directed toward the Koran or the Shoah would have justifiably provoked a worldwide revolt. Yet because they were directed toward the Catholic Church, they remain 'unpunished," Ansa quoted Amato as saying.

Church officials have spoken out repeatedly against the novel and the upcoming film adaptation, which stars Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou. The movie is scheduled for re-

ried Mary Magdalene who bore his child. The book further claums that Opus Dei, which is close to the Vatican, and the Catholic Church were at the center covering this up.

Last year, Italian Cardinal Tarcisio "I hope all of you boycott this film," the Bertone Amato's predecessor at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Paith-called for a boycott of the book.

And earlier this month, the preacher for the papal household, the Rev. Raniero Cantaamessa, denounced theories that make huge profits in denying Church teaching about Jesus—an obvious reference to the film.

Opus Dei

Opus Dei, which is portrayed as a murderous, power-hungry sect in the novel, has specifically refrained from publicly calling for a boycott of the film, aware that butter criti-cism of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" had helped popularize that movie.

Even so, Opus Dei has asked Sony to put a

work of fantasy. Sony hasn't responded to that request but its spokespersons have repeatedly said the company views "The Da Vinci Code" as a work of fiction that isn't meant to harm any organization.

Amato's comments were the second this week against the film by Church officials in Rome.

Earlier this week, the interior ministry took down an enormous ad promoting the film that was plastered on the scaffolding of a Rome church after

in the novel, Jesus is believed to have mar- disclaimer on the movie saying it is a Church officials complained that the film was against Christ and the Catholic Church

Australian reaction

In Sydney, a Church group has also launched a website and a series of cinema adverts challenging elements of the "Da Vinci Code" to coincide with the release of the movie version.

The A\$50,000 (US\$38,000) campaign by Anglican Sydney Media urges viewers of the film and readers of Brown's multimillion selling book

to seek the truth about Jesus Christ.

"Our concern is that 'The Da Vinci Code' will mislead people about the truth," Bishop Robert Forsyth, the group's chair, said in a statement on Sunday.

"We are not afraid of the film. We are not seeking to discourage people from seeing it," Forsyth added.

"But we are well aware of the power popular films have in filling the information void about Jesus."

The book has already spawned several other websites and books seeking to debunk Brown's claims.

Church experts tell brides

From page A1

gathered last week to discuss the liturgy of marriage all agreed that before comples can say their "I do's," they would have to be reminded of some do's and don'ts in weddings.

And this includes fashion. "The sacred character of the liturgy of marriage requires corresponding modesty in the attire of the bride and the bridal entourage and in the choice of songs, which should be liturgically appropriate," according to part of the five-point statement on the results of Liturgy Week meeting on April 24-27

The occasion, sponsored yearly by Benedictine monks, tackled key issues in the sacrament of marriage, particularly its liturgy or how it should be properly celebrated in clear, Christian tradition.

Fr. Anscar Chupungeo, San Beda Coilege rector and coordinator for the Liturgy Week, said the reminder on the bride's dress was not meant to sufle her fashion sense.

Sacred activity

"It's just about wearing the appropriate clothes for a deeply sacred activity such as marriage because, sometimes, people tend to forget about it," he told the incurrer in an interview.

"Marriage is admittedly a legal or canonical contract that must be respected at all times," he said in his lecture titled "Liturgical Theology of Marriage."

"However, marriage among Christians is also a sacrament whose meaning and purpose are drawn from the 'marriage between Christ and the Church.' Christ is the third party to the sacramental union of husband and wife."

Chupungco, an expert on the liturgy (generally referring to the body of rituals representing worship), said the public shouldn't take the reminder to mean that the Church would impose a dress code.

Common sense

On some occasions, it's the couturiers who "expose" brides with their designs, he said.

"It would be terrible [for priests] to decide on the specifications, say, on how long a gown should be," he said. "We leave it to [the cou-

ple's] sense of the sacred, of the profane, and their common sense and propriety."

Simply put, if it can't be worn at Sunday Mass, it can't be worn at a wedding, said the executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Commission on

In the statement, participants in the Liturgy Week also recognized the need to "explain more fully the texts of the rite." They include scriptural readings, the nuptial blessing, and gestures and symbols.

Guideposts

Nowadays, Chupungco observed that couples planning to wed were largely unaware of the meaning and significance of these matters-not just as Church symbols-but as guideposts in their married life.

Not every bride or groom is aware that candies represent the presence of the light of the Holy Spirit, that the joining of the right hands is a sign of their covenant, and that the arrhae are a symbol of mutual support daring back to

The veil, for instance, was originally a symbol of a married woman. It has been reduced to a mere decoration these days, Chupungco said.

More active role

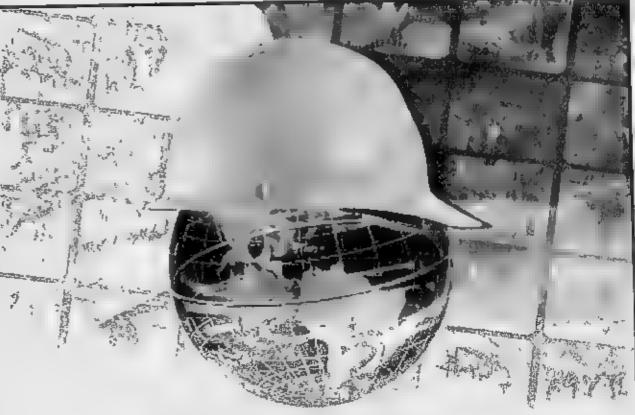
"Many consider the marriage rite uself a formality," he lamented. "Sadly, the focus is on the celebrations before and after the wedding. It seems the highlight is the party or the honeymoon.*

Couples should not "cancel out the marriage rite," Chupungco said, noting that they couldn't proceed with the rest of their celebration without it.

"It's a central rite connected to the Mass,"

To impress upon couples the importance of the marriage rite, the Liturgy Week gathering recommended that the bride and the groom be given an "active part in the preparation of the liturgy of marriage."

The choice of prayers and scriptural readings and the composition of the general intercessions also need contributions from the couple, according to the experts.



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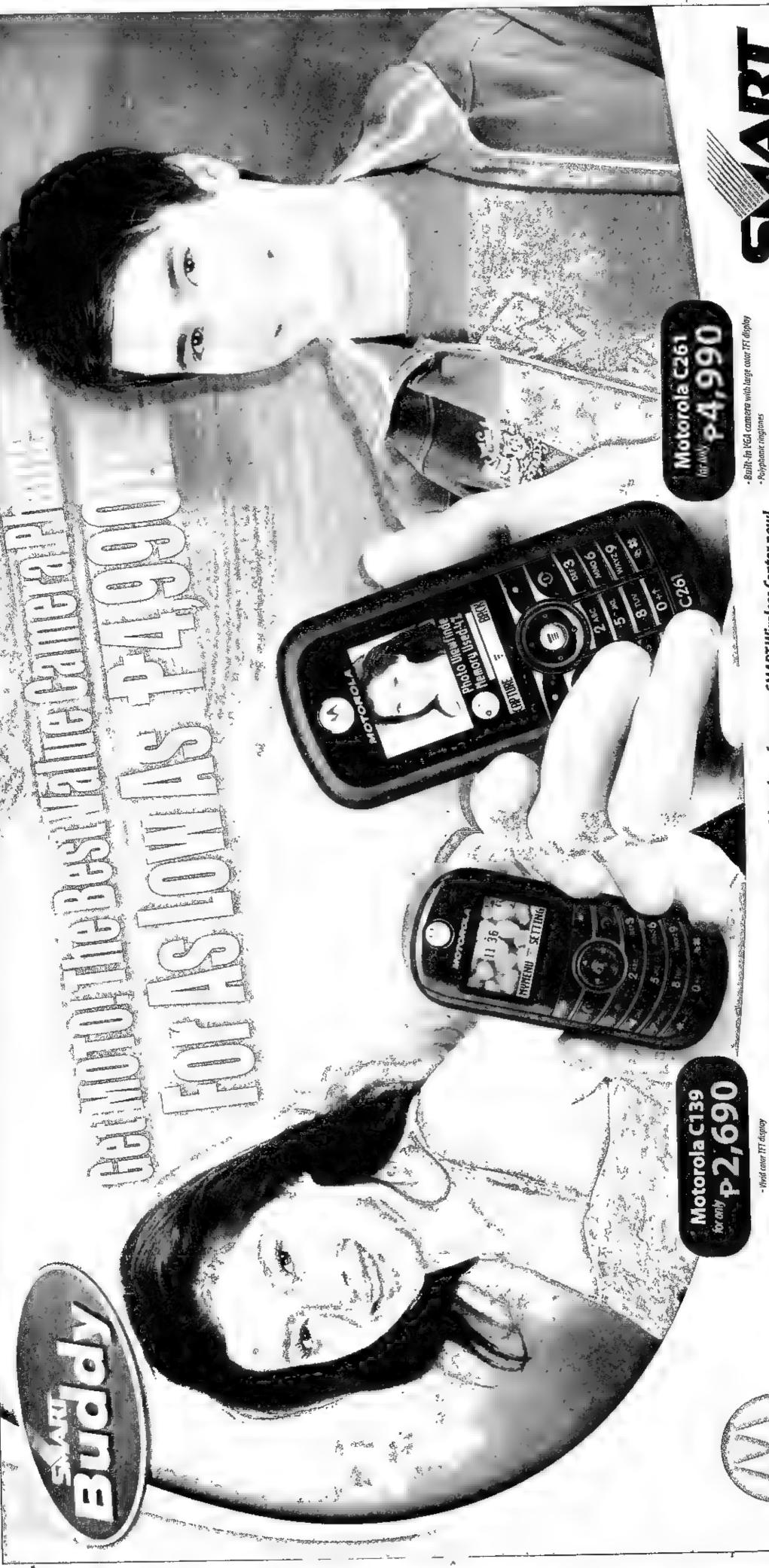
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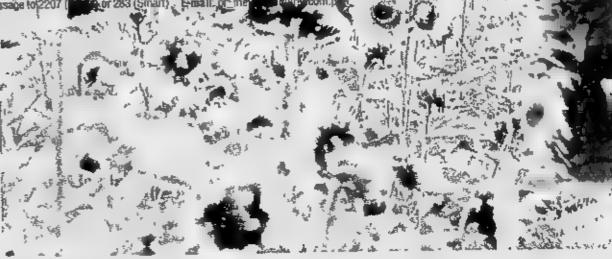
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Editor Effect G. Dipasupil. 1

Five suspected robbers killed in QC shootout



SUNNY VIEW

A street fined with sunflowers greets those who enter the UP campus in Dillman, Quezon City.

ROMYHOMILAD

By DJ Yap

RESIDENTS OF PUROK 20, Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City were enjoying a sleepy Sunday afternoon when they were jolted by a series of gunfire that erupted at the heart of the slum community.

When the shooting subsided, five men lay dead, while a sixth was rushed to the hospital, ending what the police said was a shootout with members of a criminal gang.

According to Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., the six belonged to the notorious Ballasta Group, a gang composed of robbers and hired guns with connections to other crime syndicates.

The police identified the slain suspects only by their aliases. But Rosie Musinos, widow of one of the suspects, Joel Musinos, identified the others as Jose Nugit, Efan Nebre, a certain "Paterno" and one "Roger." The sixth suspect taken to an unspecified hospital was Dante Navarra, said Musinos.

Under surveillance

Investigators said the men had been under surveillance for more than a year by agents of the Quezon City police intelligence division.

When an agent entered the compound at about 2:30 p.m., he was recognized by one of the suspects who began shooting at him, an intelligence agent who requested anonymity for security reasons said.

Within moments, a shootout ensued as the suspects traded gunshots with police, the

Rubout?

But Musinos said there was no shootout at all. She claimed that she saw her husband lying on his belly with his arms up, yet the policemen still shot him, a charge the agents de-

Musinos aiso denied the police's claim that her husband had a gun and was a member of the notonous gang

"The other victims were his family members and friends. They were just having drinks. My husband used to sell fish balls for a living, but today he was taking a break since it's summer," she told the laquirer.

Radovan told reporters that the suspects had killed a number of policemen and had been known to stage robberies.

2 Purok 20 is a hard-to-locate sium area found at the rear of Ideal Subdivision in neighboring Barangay Holy Spirit. It has narrow side streets and creeks, with some houses separated by bridges made of wooden planks.



SHOOTOUT or rubout? A woman cries over one of the slain suspects.

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ISANG BUKAS NA LIHAM MGA TUNAY NA IDOL NG BAYAN



MGA IKA NGA'Y, KUMAKAYOD, NAGPAPAWIS, DUMIDISKARTE PARA KUMITA.

MARTILYO, LAGARE, PLAIS, BALLPEN, LAPIS, RULER, MANIBELA, ARARO,

CELLPHONE.

OO. SA PAGDAAN NG MGA TAON ANG CELLPHONE AY NAGING IMPORTANTENG GAMIT DI LANG SA PAMUMUHAY KUNDI PATI SA HANAPBUHAY. ITO AY ISA NANG KASANGKAPAN PARA UMAHON AT MAKALUWAG-LUWAG KAHIT KONTI.

AT ALAM NAMIN YAN SA TM.

SA KATUNAYAN, ITO ANG PRINSIPYONG GUMAGABAY SA AMIN. KAYA NGA TM POWER TO THE PEOPLE, POWER TO THE PISO!

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I-TEXT LANG ANG "TRABAHO" SA 2864, MAKAKATANGGAP NA NG MGA BALITA
TUNGKOL SA JOB OPENINGS SA PILIPINAS O ABROAD. (KASI NGA NAMAN: PAANO MO
MAE-ENJOY ANG ARAW NA TO KUNG WALA KA NAMANG TRABAHO!?)
GANYAN TAYO INJINTINDI NG TM.

GANYAN LAGING BINIBIGYANG HALAGA ANG PINAGPAGURAN MONG PISO.

BUONG-PUSO AT BUONG GALAK KAMING BUMABATI:
ISANG MAKABULUHANG ARAW NG MANGGAGAWAI



'Batasan 5' to leave House Thursday

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SO-CALLED "BATASAN 5" WILL leave the House of Representatives on Thursday to appear in a Makati court where they face rebellion charges.

Representatives Liza Maza Gabriela, Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casino and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, will be joined by their colleague, Rep. Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, who was transferred last week to the Philippine Heart Center after being detained in Camp

Crame for two mouths.

This would be the first time that Ocampo, Casino, Virador and Mariano would be leaving the House of Representatives. The four, along with Maza, have been holed up at the Batasan complex since Feb. 27 to avoid being arrested by the police. Maza, on the other hand, has left the House twice—for a Senate bi-cameral meeting and for an appointment with her dentist.

The six solons, along with over 40 other persons, have been charged with rebellion for allegedly taking part in an "in-

tricate web" of conspiracies to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

They have been summoned to appear at the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137 at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Attendance compulsory

"All of them have to attend because they received subpoenas... I don't think they will be arrested because the court has not issued arrest warrants yet. They cannot be arrested," said Amylyn Sato, one of the lawmakers' lawyers from the Public Interest Law Center.

The court sent a copy of the subpoena to the Sergeant-at-Arms (of the House of Representatives) so I think they (House security officers) will be the ones escorting them," Sato told the Inquirer.

The lawyer said Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delormo has required the lawmakers to be present during the hearing as the court would take up their motion for the nullification of the rebellion case filed against them by the Department of Justice.

The lawmakers filed last Monday a motion asking the court to strike out an amended criminal information the DOJ

filed on April 21, where some 48 individuals, including former Sen. Gringo Honasan, were indicted for allegedly taking part in a conspiracy between com; munist rebels and renegade soldiers to violently overthrow the President. The supposed plot was supposed to culminate today, Labor Day.

The case was an update of the rebelion charges filed by a DOJ panel against Beltran and recaptured 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan on Feb. 28. The charges against the two have already been elevated to

Business sector pitches in to save environment

Collection of recyclables nets P1.4M in 4 years

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT HAS SAVED MORE THAN A THOUsand trees, recycled tons of garbage and extended the life span of garbage dumps.

Now on its fifth year, the Recyclables Collection Event (RCE), a campaign organized annually by the Philippine Bustness for the Environment (PBE), continues to encourage corporations nationwide to recycle the trash they generate, instead of just throwing it all away.

"We are spreading the awareness that you can turn your trash into cash," said Nancy Pilien, PBE project officer.

The PBE, a non-stock, non-profit orgamzation formed in 1999, has been helping promote environmental awareness in the business sector because it believes "that the business community has a unique and important role in providing solutions to the country's environmental

Its members include the country's top business companies like Pilipinas Shell, the SGV Group of Companies, Unilever Philippines, Ayala Corp., Caltex Phils., Nestle and San Miguel Corp., among others.

One-day event

Among the group's activities is the RCE, a one-day collection event for recyclable materials usually held on Earth Day week every April. Corporations, establishments, organizations and even individuals are encouraged to bring their recyclables like used paper; old electronics, office equipment and car batteries; PET (a type of plastic material) bottles; aluminum cans and used oil to designated drop off areas all over the country where these can be redeemed for cash at buying stations set up by recyclers.

According to Pilien, the RCE is a promotional activity for its year-round lindustrial Waste Exchange Program (IWEP), a garbage recovery program in

which an industry is linked to a buyer that can reuse or recycle the waste materials generated by the other.

By hooking up waste generators with recyclers, the RCE has turned into an event where everyone involved end up being a winner. Contributors would get cash for their recyclables while recycling firms would have new materials to process and later on, resell.

Ultimate beneficiary

But the ultimate beneficiary would be the environment that was spared from the tons of trash that would have been dumped in landfills.

The RCE is an initiative of the PBE and the firms organize it with us. What we do is contact recyclers, and these are environmentally compliant recyclers. We see to it these are not fly-by-might recyclers," Pilien said.

Since its inception in 2002, Pilien said the drive has generated P1.43 million would have needed 91 garbage trucks with a 10-ton capacity each—for transport to a dump and would have occupied—kilos of aluminum cans, 5,120 grains of—a double process," he added. 913 cubic meters of landfill space.

"And it's been increasing. Just last year, the collection was worth more than P500,000," she said, compared to the average collection of P300,000 from 2002

Over 1,200 trees saved

From 2002 to last year, the PBE has estimated that the 58,661 kilos of waste paper that were turned over for recycling spared 1,219 seven-year-old trees from being cut down to manufacture new pa-

From used batteries, a total of 186,950 kilos of lead were recovered while 34,905 liters of sulfuric acid were treated. Also recovered were 1,495 kilos of PET plastics, 560 kilos of non-PET plastics, 919 kilos of aluminum from 919



worth of recycled materials—which SOME of the recyclable materials brought to a designated drop-off area in Makati City.

precious metals and 456,060 kilos of

This year, the RCE was held in five areas nationwide, including the Rockwell Club in Makati, a venue where the event has been conducted since the campaign began in 2002.

Barangay involvement

Organizers of the RCE in Rockwell went further this year by trying to involve the surrounding barangays in the area in the collection drive.

"We contribute more than 20 percent to the collection every year. Hopefully we can top this, that's why we encouraged the involvement of the barangays," Red Cruz, Rockwell Land Manager said.

(it's) not just for the project, but also for them to understand recycling... so it's

According to Rockwell organizers, they were able to collect P\$1,000 worth of recycled materials in 2004. The figure, however, went up by over a 100 percent last year, hitting P105,000. (The PBE will formally present the results of the collection drive this year to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes tomorrow).

In addition, more recycling firms parricipated this year in the Makati leg of the RCE. From eight firms in 2005, 10 took part this year, including Clean Leaf dustrial Sales, a Malabon-based firm that recycles used industrial oil.

"Our target is to have establishments around the area as our clients. What we do is process used oil and those that we could fully recover, we sell at a lower price to small firms," said Jun Carmona, Clean Leaf production manager.

Carmona said the firm's efforts were worthwhile as a liter of oil, if disposed of in a careless manner, could contaminate a million liters of water.

And this is exactly what the RCE wants to help prevent—the gradual destruction of the environment by the industriminate throwing of garbage.

Environmental impact

"Aside from the environmental benefits that we get from it, the awareness of the firms and individuals that are involved is intensified. It's really supposed to be the first priority—that they should be aware of the environmental impact,"

Pilien said. In the end, it all boils down to one thing: It's not all about making money, it's also about doing your part to help save the environment.



'Edsa Tres' ralliers tell their stories

HISTORY IS OFTEN TOLD FROM THE standpoint of victors. But the vanquished have their own way of telling their story and rewriting their history.

One example is May 1, 2001, or what has come to be known as "Edsa Tres," the poor man's People Power.

Participants of Edsa Tres have been holding a series of "kwentuhang bayan," or storytelling sessions about the events of that day, hoping that their tales may someday find their way to the national consciousness.

- Last Priday, at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, they spoke of grief and suffering, rage and hopelessness, even triumph. For in the darkest hour of Edsa Tres, they said they were able to prove themselves a force capable of a spontaneous upris-Joseph Estrada.

According to Marivic Raquiza, national coordinator of Global Call to Action against Poverty, history should recognize the nameless and faceless individuals behind Edsa

"Their stories and narratives should also be part of history, not just history of the intellectuals and those in power, but also history from the perspective of the poor and the oppressed," she said.

Led by Gcap, the speakers recounted their experiences during the five-day gathering that culminated in a violent dispersal at the

gates of Malacañang. Twenty-year-old Luis Granados, a member of a political clan in Kawit, Cavite, remembered the almost chaotic atmosphere as the marchers began gathering at the foot of the

Edsa Shrine in the days leading to Labor Day.

On April 30, the protesters—tired, hungry and lacking sleep-began arguing about whether or not to begin their march to Mendiola, he said.

"Some of the leaders said not yet, but most of the crowd had gotten impatient and angry, so they began to break away from the group, said Granados, who followed the marchers on board a car with his cousin.

Near Mendiola, the crowd sat in the middle of the road. One woman began to lead a prayer when, suddenly, a shot rang out.

Granados said he saw the woman beside him fall down, with blood flowing from a gunshot wound. "I was 15 years old then, and someone seated beside me just got shot," he said, recalling the shock.

After the shooting, apparently the work of a sniper, all hell broke loose: "We began runing against the ouster of former President ning for our lives," he said, adding that he never knew what happened to the woman.

Granados found himself seeking shelter in a boarding house at the University Belt area. The landlady took him in and hid him from

stories like his that begged to be told about

that was never written in history books. This is the poor's version of history, of Edsa Tres and the people who marched and showed our

Marierta Sumagang, 51, a vendor in Quezon City, said many of them were "so terri-

the riot police. Granados said there were countless other "I'm here because I want to tell this story fied" to speak out about their ordeal, fearing government reprisal. "But if we don't speak up, people will never know the truth," she said.

Couple nabbed for extorting money from Japanese trader

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A PORMER ENTERTAINER AND HER HUSband were arrested last week by National Bureau of Investigation agents after allegedly extorting over P1.6 million from a Japanese businessman in Pasay City.

Maria Lourdes Dizon and Arnel Punzalan, both of Block 29, Lot 11 Dumaguete St., South City Homes in Biñan, Laguna, have been charged with robbery and extortion in the Pasay City Prosecutor's Unice.

' An investigation by the NBI National Capital Region showed that victim Jiro Miyamoto met Dizon in Japan in 1996.

Miyamoto became smitten with the suspect, who confided her financial problems in him. The Japanese promised to send her money when Dizon went back to the Philippines.

For almost a decade, Miyamoto sent over P1.5 million to the suspect, which she promised to use in her application for a

However, when Miyamoto arrived in the Philippines last April 18 to visit Dizon, she and her husband began threatening him if he did not give them more money. But after he gave them over P150,000, the couple kept on demanding more cash.

The victim, who confirmed with the Japanese Embassy that Dizon had not applied for a visa, then sought the NBI's help.

NBI agents arrested the couple during an entrapment operation in a Passy City Hotel

NBI NCR executive officer Perdinand Lavin said the agents seized a toy gum from Punzalan, which he allegedly used to stare Miyamoto.

TV program for teachers launched

By Alcuin A. Papa and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS IS now on the boob tube.

The Department of Education has launched the, "Teleserye Para kay Ma'am," a weekly TV program over government-run NBN-4, that

aims to enrich the skills of teachers in English, Math and Science through remote or distance DepEd officer-in-charge Fe Hidalgo said the

IV-program's pilot episode, titled "Science rocess Skills: Making Predictions, Investigatng, and Pushes and Pulls," was aired yesterday, It was hosted by Dr. Joan Beien and May londa of the UP National Institute of Science and Mathematics Education (Nismed)

The program will run from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., every Sunday over NBN-4. Hidalgo said the Dep.Ed was preparing 23 episodes on each of the following subject areas: Elementary and Secondary English, Mathematics and Science.

Meanwhile, hundreds of public elementary and high school teachers in Pasig City are undergoing training on English, Science and Mathematics.

Their trainers are from UP and the Ateneo de Manila University.

The lectures, attended by more than 700 teachers, are being held at the Rizal High School in Pasig City. The lectures began on April 17 and will end on June 2.

The city government is shouldering all the expenses for the training, the city information office said in a statement.

Ninety-nine high school teachers and 124 elementary teachers are undergoing training in English which is being handled by the AdMU Center for Education Development.

On the other hand, the UP Nismed is conducting the training in Science and Technology for 104 elementary and 134 high school teachers, as well as the training in Mathematics for 134 elementary and 117 high school teachers.

METROBRIEFS

Man electrocuted in QC while picking fruits

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was electrocuted while he was trying to pick a mango fruit the other day in Quizon City. Michael Benedicto died Instantly aftersuffering burns when he accidentally touched a life wire while atop a mango tree at 41 Matsimbo corner Legua Streets in San Francisco DeiMonte, Barangay Manresa, Investigation

showed that the victim was trying to reach a fruit using an aluminum pipe when it got into contact with a live wire, according to a report by PO3 Jun Fortmato of the city police criminal investigation division. Benedicto was electrocuted and died instanly, police said.

Gunned down inside a cab

A CAS driver was gunned down by two men in Quezon City before dawn yesterday. Police are still livestigating the motive in the killing of Hugo intoy who was shot dead by unidentified suspectsinside his taxt, with plate number PYC-357, at 5 am. Witness Carlos Grabanto told police he was pushing his cart along 11th Street in Barangay Camayang Lagi when he heard three succes-

sive ganshots. He said he saw two men, one of whom was holding a gun, alighting from the victim's taxi, according to a report by investigator SP02 Felicisimo Cuaresma, Barangay watchmen rushed Grabanto to the St. Luke's Medical Center, but he died white undergoing surgery. He sustained two gunshot wounds in the stomach, po-

Party marks 33rd founding anniversary in Tondo

THE PARTIDO Demotratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilip-Inas will celebrate its 33rd tounding anniversary by bringing its call for social revolution to Tondo, Manifa. PDSP members led by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, party chairperson and co-founder, along with the multi-sectoral social movement Aksyon Sambayanan, will hold a raily today at the Del Pan Sports Complex in Parela, Tondo. Representatives from the Church and religious organizations, the Armed Forces, police, progressive politicians, as well as professionals, workers, peasants, urban poor and womon will join the event, dubbed as the Fist-Rose Revolution, after the international symbol of social democrats.



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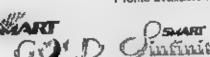
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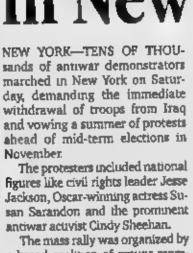


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The WORLD

Tens of thousands march in New York antiwar rally



The mass rally was organized by a broad coalition of groups representing veterans, trade unions, military families, environmental-

asts and civil rights activists. The police declined to offer an estimate for the size of the protest, while organizers claimed the turnout was as high as 300,000

"This is what democracy looks like," said chief organizer Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of the antiwar lobby United for Peace and Justice.

"We are here to send a message to the White House and the Congress that we must end this war now, bring our troops home and also end the attack on our civil rights at home," Cagan said.

While the main focus of the march was Iraq, Cagan said the rally was also aimed at protesting any plans for military intervention in fran and at setting the domestic pobrical agenda ahead of the congressional elections tater in the year.

Today we march, tomorrow we organize and in November we vote," Cagan told cheering supporters.

Postce were out in force as the demonstration wound its way through lower Manhattan toward

Our sole aim is to facilitate the march," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

The protest was held a day af-

ter the Pentagon announced that 69 US soldiers had died in Iraq in April, and many marchers carried photos of family members killed while serving in the armed forces since the war began.

"We need to bring the soldiers back," said Sarandon. "And we also need to stop all this money being poured into this horrible crime of a war, so that it can be used where it's urgently needed at home."

Sheehan, who became a leading antiwar activist after her soldier son was killed in Iraq, said the massive turnout for the march reflected a growing groundswell of US public opinion against continued military involvement in Iraq.

We are mainstream America," said Sheehan, who gained prominence when she camped outside President George W. Bush's Texas ranch last year to demand a meeting with the US leader.

"To be anti-George Bush is to be pro-American," she said.

Another prominent participant in the march was Daniel Elisberg. the former military analyst who precipitated a national uproar in 1971 when he leaked the Pentagon Papers, the US military's account of activities during the Vietnam War, to The New York Times.

The release of the documents succeeded in substantially erod-

ing public support for the war, and Elisberg urged those in the Bush administration opposed to the current policy in Iraq to fellow his example.

"My message is: Don't justiresign, Leak," Ellsberg said. "I don't think George Bush is stupid; I think he's dangerous, and he has to be stopped."

After reaching City Hall, the organizers held a five-hour festival, during which they sought signatures for a "Peace Voter Pledge," vowing not to vote for any candidate in the November elections who does not publicly call for a speedy end to military involvement in Iraq.

US pays for 150 Iraq health clinics, but manages to build only 20

A \$243-MILLION PROGRAM LED cite a wide range of factors, includby the US Army Corps of Engineers to build 150 health care climes in Iraq has in some cases produced little more than empty shells of crumbling concrete and shattered bricks cemented together into uneven walls, two reports by a federal oversight office have found

The reports, released Saturday, detail a close inspection of five of the clanics in the northern city of Kirkuk as well as a sweeping audit of the entire program, which began in March 2004 as a heavily promoted effort to improve health care for ordinary Iraqis. The reports say that none of the five clinics in Kirkuk and only 20 of the original 150 across the country will be completed without new financing.

Written by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, an independent office, the reports

ing disputes among Iraqi construction companies and problems with local materials, that have contributed to the program's failures. The American company Parsons, the prime contractor for the work, also comes in for stiff criticism.

But the reports' main finding is that ax oversight by the Army Corps is responsible above all for the failure of the overall program. Cowed by security fears that the reports suggest may have been overblown, the corps sometimes inspected the work only through what it called "windshield surveys"-hasty drive-bys in which little but the existence of a standing structure could be noted.

Whatever the causes, the impact of the failure on the American effort to rebuild Iraq is enormous, said the inspector general, Stuart W. Bowen Jr.

"This was the most important program in the health sector," Bowen said in an interview. "It sought to fulfill a strategy to get health services to rural and remote poor in Iraq."

But the criticisms in the reports have created deep disagreements between Bowen's office and the gulf region division of the Army Corps, which is responsible for the program. In a series of objections that are included in the reports, the division's commander, Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy Jr., rejects many of the findings and attempts to shift much of the blame to the American and Iraqi contractors who carned out the work.

"Contractor performance and lack of openness in addressing schedule and budget issues in a timely fashion obscured the severity of the financial problem," McCoy wrote as part of his response. NYT

'Day Without Immigrants' as Hispanics stress a point

PROTESTERS march down Broadway in New York City during a

LOS ANGELES-IN A DRAMATIC American Political Association, said bid to make their presence and at Friday's press conference. their contributions felt, immi- However, city and school offigrants in the United States are making a conscious effort to be noticeably absent

mass rally against the war in Iraq, April 29.

to take part in a "Day Without Immigrants" on Monday by staying home from work and school and avoiding shopping trips, in an effort to press officials to legalize the status of the 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

"We have to make our presence felt through our absence," organizers from the nation's most influential Hispanic groups said Priday at their final press conference before the mass boycott.

Though Monday is a normal work day in the United States-where Labor Day is celebrated in September instead of May 1, as in many countnes-it might look more like a May Day abroad, complete with demonstrations called by workers' unions

and rights advocates. But while the demonstration was planned by a network of organizations representing the largest US minority group, some 40 million Hispanics, the coalition called for solidarity among all US ummigrant communities, encouraging them to show a united front in boycotting work and commercial transactions for a day so their full economic weight could be felt

"We've unequivocally called on all families to participate in the Great American Boycott and the marches-and that translates into not going to work, not going to school, not shopping and not selling," Nativo Lopez, president of the Mexican-

cials and the "We Are America" coelition-which includes the Roman Catholic Church—are en-Hispanic groups are urging them couraging people to go to school and work and join the demonstrations later in the day.

The division over the way the protests should be carried out is as evident among pointcal leaders as it is among umons.

President George W. Bush criticized the boycott and a measure to have a Spanish version of the US nabonal anthem, urging immigrants instead to learn English so they can sing the original version of the song.

California's Republican Gov. Amold Schwarzenegger also denounced Monday's boycott, but the state's Democrat-dominated Senate approved a resolution supporting it.

Meanwhile, food giants such as Tyson Food Inc. and Cargill Foods announced the closing of ar least eight piants, while Goya Roods announced a complete halt in its daily distribution. All three companies said they understood the sentiments behind the protest.

"It's no surprise that food companies are taking a position favoring workers, given that many of them employ immigrants, most of them Hispanic and many of them illegal," Angel Luevano, spokesperson for the League of United Latin American Citizens,

Wal-Mart, which employs more than 1.3 million people, has not yet announced what it will do if a sizable number of its Hispanic employees take the day off. AFP

'Corridor of death' leads to a grasp of the US dream SASABE, MEXICO-THEY CALL IT the "corridor of death." At one

end is poverty. At the other the American dream. And in between there are drug gangs, killer temperatures for a three-day walk across the desert and hostile border guards

But each day, hundreds of people arrive in Sasabe from across Merceo and Central America, hoping to reach the United States and in many cases ready to carry backsack full of marijuana with

Clandestine immigration and drug trafficking plays a major economic role in the towns of Sasabe and Atar in Sonore state, on the Mexico-US border.

The US nongovernmental group, Humane Borders, estimates that the Sasabe valley is the main point for illegal entry along the 3,000 kilometer US-Mexico border, because the Arizona desert is the least patrolled border

But crossing the border involves a three-day walk, with summer temperatures soaring past 50 degrees Celsius and the trekkers risk dehydration. Border patrols are also waiting.

Shops in Sasabe sell creams for muscle pains, special jackets, flashights for nighttime walking, and black paint to mask out anything that might shine and give away the would-be illegal migrants

Across the border, the waves of illegal immigrants have sparked a fierce political debate that has divided US President George W. Bush's ruling Repub-



A Hispanic farmworker harvest Ranunculus bulbs at the Flower Fields April 28 in Carlsbad, California.

There are an estimated 11.5 and would make illegal entry a milion undocumented workers in the United States and hundreds of thousands have taken part in demonstrations against one bill that has passed through

crime

Bush is pressing what he calls a more humane plan to toughen border controls while setting up a "guest" worker plan that would althe House of Representatives low but illegals to hope for US na- the border each day.

The Memcan authorities are also unable to cope with the march to the frontier

You need the federal police here. They are too few for the number of migrants and the amount of drugs," said a member of Beta, a group created by the Mexican government to aid mi-

Altar, 100 kilometers west of Sasabe, is dubbed the "ante room" of illegal immigration, explained Prisciliano Peraza, a priest, who calculated that there was a "floating population" of about 7,000 would-be migrants.

Sasabe, with some 3,000 permanent residents, resembles a shantytown lost in the middle of the desert. The migrants often take sheiter in wooden shacks and tents while they wait their

Drug gangs lurk seeking to recruit human "mules" to carry consignments across the border.

"Groups of 15 'mules' from the Sasabe zone cross the frontier, each with 20 kilograms of man juana on their backs," said Jose Antonio Rivera, of the Commise & sion to Aid Migrants in Sonora

"Young people are recruited here, in the cities and villages of Sonora. They deposit the cargo in the US, then they hand them-,; selves in to the US Border Patrol, which takes them back to Mexico.,

"They earn \$1,000-\$1,500 for each trip," he said.

Mexican authorities say they are overwhelmed by the smuggiers. According to aid groups, more than 3,000 people crost

Withering village of a graying Japan writes its epitaph

By Norimitsu Onishl

OGAMA, JAPAN-THIS MOUNtain village near the Sea of Japan, withered to eight aging residents, concluded recently that it could no longer go on.

So, after months of anguish, the villagers settled on a drastic solution: selling all of Ogama to an industrial waste company from Tokyo, which will turn it in-

to a landfill. With the proceeds, the villagers, mainly in their 70s, plan to pack up everything, including their family graves, and

yet uncertain destinations, likely becoming the first community in Japan to voluntarily cease to exist

"I'm sure we're the first ones to have made such a proposal," said Kazuo M.yasaka, 64, the village leader. "It's because there's no future for us here,

On a hill overlooking a field of overgrown bushes, surrounded by the sounds of a stream and n bush warbler, Miyasaka pointed below with his right index finger. "I never imagined it

mean, those all used to be rice fields.

Ogama's decision, though extreme, points to a larger problem besetting Japan, which has one of the world's fastest-graying societies and whose population began declining last year for the first time in its history. As rural Japan becomes increasingly depopulated, many villager and hamlets like Ogama, along with their traditions and histories, risk vanishing

Japan is dotted with so many such communities that academics

move in the next few years to would come to this," he said. "I have comed a term-"villages that have reached their limits"-to describe those with populations that are more than half elderly. Out of 140 villages in Monzen-the municipality that includes Ogama-40 percent have fewer than 10 households, most of which are inhabited by the elderly.

Rural Japan has never recovered from the long economic recession, unlike the cities.

So desperate are some rural communities that they flercely compete for businesses that would have drawn procests in

more prosperous times

As part of his efforts to decentralize government during his five years in office, Prime Minister Junichiro Kolzumi increased the strain on localities by reducing public works spending that yielded money and jobs for local construction companies.

Koizumi also cut subsidies and tax redistribution to local governments, instead giving them the power to collect taxes directly. But rural officials contend that with a decreasing population and few businesses, there are few taxes to collect.

In keeping with a nationwide movement to combine financially squeezed municipalities, Morren merged with nearby Walima Dity in February. In 2000, revenues from the national government to the two municipalities touled \$114 million, accounting for 50 percent of their overall revenues: in 2005, money from the capital fell to \$90 million, or to 44 per-

cent of their revenues. Fumiaki Kali, the mayor of the merged municipality, said recent changes amounted to a "simple logic of telling the countriside that it should die."





BLAIR: Snagged in "cash for honors" row.

Blair ratings at record low as Labor seen as 'sleazy, incompetent'

Blair's ratings have sunk to an all-time low as most Britons see his Labor Party as "sleazy and incompetent," a survey showed at the week- job as deputy prime minister.

The poll published in The Sunday Times newspaper comes after political and personal crises erupted last Wednesday around three key ministers in Blair's Cabinet ahead of testing local elections in the coming week.

On "Black Wednesday," Blair's deputy John Prescott admitted to having an affair, his home secretary Charles Clarke apologized for failing to deport foreign convicts, and nurses booed his health secretary Patricia Hewitt.

Some 57 percent of people surveyed by YouGov for the Sunday Times since Wednesday said the party was "sleazy and incompetent."

Blair's personal rating has slipped to its lowest level since he took over as the party leader in 1994, with 64 percent saying he was doing badly and just 33 percent thinking that he was doing well.

Prescon sacked, including nearly a quarter of Labor supporters. Only 31 percent think he should stay on the job.

Opinions of his political abilities were low, as \$2 percent agreed with the statement that from 8 perce

LONDON-BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY he was "a buffoon who should never have

made it to high office." Just 9 percent thought he had done a good

Some 53 percent want Clarke to get the axe and 21 percent want him to stay.

A huge majority of 89 percent said the mistaken foreign prisoner releases showed "alarming incompetence," with 72 percent rating the government's overall performance on crime and immigration "generally incompetent."

Some 51 percent of the voters want Hewitt to resign, while only 19 percent want her to stay.

Those surveyed widely distrusted Hewitt's claim that the National Health Service had its best ever year. Some 72 percent said her contention was wrong and only 7 percent thought it was right.

Sixty-two percent believe the NHS is doing badly, while 30 percent think it is doing well. The poll also revealed signs that smaller

parties may do well in Thursday's election. All three main parties' ratings are down on

Of those surveyed, 48 percent now want the last poll in March, with Labor and the Conservatives each dropping three points to 32 percent and 35 percent respectively, and the Liberal Democrats down one at 18 percent.

Overall support for other parties was up



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MILESTONES

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith; 97

WASHINGTON - JOHN Kenneth Galbraith, an influentia, liberal economist and author of "The Affluent Society," has died at age 97, The New York Times reported on Sunday.

The Canadian-born Galbraith, a professor at Harvard University, died on Saturday at a hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the paper

Galbraith's most famous work, 1958's "The Affluent Society," became a bestseller. In the book, he argued that the United States had become rich in consumer goods but poor in social services.



GALBRAITH

At his death Galbraith was an emeritus professor of economics at Harvard, where he had taught for most of his career.

Indonesia author Pramoedya; 81

JAKARTA — INDONESIA'S best-known author and perennial Nobel candidate Pramoedya Ananta Toer died on Sunday, the family said

Pramoedya, known for his anti-colonial novels and long history of persecution by past regimes, had been suffering respiratory problems and chest pains in recent days and had refused to eat, national news agency Antara reported

Antara called him "one of Indonesia's great literary men." He died at his daughter's

home in East Jakarta, one of his grandsons told Reuters.

Born in Central Java in 1925, Pramoedya spent 14 years living on a desolate prison island called Burn under former autocrat Suharto because of his perceived links with communism.

While on the swampy, malaria-ndden island, Pramoedya conceived his best-known quartet of novels, the Buru series, tracing the early independence movement against the Dutch

He published the series after his release in 1979

His books—he wrote some 30 in all—have been translated into nearly 40 languages. Pramoedya was denied pens or pencils dur-



PRAMOEDYA

ing much of his term on Burn. But he once told Reuters he had recited the stories so often to fellow prisoners all he had to do after his release was put pert to paper and the words flowed.

Stevenson, the Democratic

nominee for president in

1952 and 1956, on eco-

nomics. He also advised Pres-

ident John R Kennedy and

served as his ambassador to

Though be eventually

broke with President Lyndon

Johnson over the war in Viet-

nam, he helped conceive of

Johnson's Great Society pro-

gram and wrote a major pres-

idential address that outlined

its purposes, the Times said.

His hearing was permanently damaged during an assault by a soldier while in prison. But it was the burning of his manuscripts and books by the authorities in the mid-1960s that left the deepest scar.

"After 1965, all the contents of my personal library were burnt to the ground, my house was confiscated," Pramoedya once said, referring to the year when a coup

attempt blamed on communists sparked massive bloodshed that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

Pramoedya's links with the Communist-affiltated People's Culture Institute led to his Imprisonment on Buru. After his release, he was put under house arrest and barred from travelling for many years.

Though born and raised on Indonesia's main Island Java, he had few of its traits emphasizing humility and indirectness.

Quoted by Antara at a birthday party when he turned 80, Pramoedya blasted Indonesia as a "continent of corruption "

Berlusconi said on Saturday he would resign,

ending three weeks of wrangling over a narrow

election defeat and clearing the political decks for

Romano Prodi to take power.

Berlusconi, who had previously

alleged election fraud and refused

ugnation to President Carlo Azeglio

Clampi on Tuesday after a sched-

uled Cabinet meeting, officials said.

ranging from communists to cen-

trist Roman Catholics, won the

election by the smallest margin in

modern Italian history and will

have to find quick remedies for a

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



BERLUSCONI clears the decks for Prodi.

struggling economy and way-

to formally concede defeat after April 9-10 polls, would hand his res-

ward public finances.

skeptical he will govern for long, pecially after his coalition displayed embarrassing disunity on Friday and Saturday, needing four votes to get its candidate elected president of Prodi's center-left coalition, parliament's upper house Senate.

"The Prodi government, if it ever sees the light of day, will have to get used to living with an abacus in its hands," the leftist La Repubblica newspaper said after the coalition failed to unite round Franco Marim

Berlusconi to quit as PM

Resignation to end wrangling over poll defeat

ROME—ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER SILVIO in the first three votes. The center-left has only a twoseat majority in the Senate but should be able to count on support from several life-senators appointed by the president, not elected. Prodi's majority is bigger in the lower house Chamber of Deputies.

"Yes," an official at Berlusconi's Many political commentators are office said when asked whether the prime minister, Italy's richest man and a media magnate, had decided to quit after leading Italy for five years with a center-right Cabmet.

Berluscom won power in 2001 promising an economic miracle of tax cuts, an infrastructure boom and economic growth of around 4 percent per year. But in 2005 the economy failed to grow for the secand time in three years.

The public deficit has exceeded

the European Union's 3 percent of GDP ceiling for the last three years, with the trend worsening as one-off deficit plugs have run out. The 2005 deficit of 4.1 percent of GDP was the highest since

Prodi, a former European Commission president, has made much of his five years in Brussels where he stood on a world stage and earned a reputation for seriousness-a campaign motto he coined to contrast with Berlusconi's flamboyance.

He saw BU expansion and the introduction of the euro to fruition, but had only limited success in his attempts to stamp out waste and fraud. He left many cold with his lack of communication skills and presence. Reuters

Iran crisis: Neither side blinks, but Tehran offers concession

CAIRO, EGYPT-THE UN DEADline for Iran to stop uranium enrichment came and went, and nobody blinked.

Throughout the spiraling conflict-slathered in tough talk on all sides-Iran had said it would not bow to international pressure, apparently banking on the deep split in the Security Council over the "or else" portion of the United Nations' demand.

Russia and China did not budge from their opposition to UN sanctions as punishment, leaving the United States, Britain and France hamstrung and facing a possible Security Council veto

by the Kremin and Beijing. Iran, however, appeared to have understood it may have pushed the international community as hard as it could for the time being

On Saturday, the Islamic repub-RC izzneg a concessionary brobosar - sive ma dangerous stalemate, which US

the military option on the table.

"If the issue is returned to the International Atomic Energy Agency, we will be ready to allow intrusive inspections," fran's deputy nuclear chief, Mohammed Saeedi, told state-run television. His words appeared to antici-

pate an international loss of patience voiced Saturday by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov a steadfast opponent of sanctions

Lavrov told his framan counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki by telephone that from must halt uranium enrichment and enoperate with the IAEA.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, Lavrov demanded that Iran suspend research and development on enrichment and "provide full-format cooperation" with the IAEA to "clear up the IAEA's remaining questions."

In February, fran barred intruone of its muclear facilithat might offer a way out of the ties by the IAEA, the UN watchdog for compliance with the Nuclear President George W. Bush has said Nonproliferation Treaty, after # caused the United States to leave was referred to the Security Coun-

cil over its nuclear activities.

Western Several tries-the United States, Britain and Prance, in particular-suspect the program is aimed at producing nuclear warheads.

By offering a return of so-called snap inspections, fran appeared to be giving ground in an attempt to convince the IAEA-and the world community—that it was telling the truth when it said it was enriching uranium only as fuel for reactors to generate electricity.

"What is up for negotiation is to remove concerns of probably few countries in negotiations," Saeedi told framan television in a direct reference to Western allegations.

The White House was dismissive of the Iranian offer.

"Today's statement does not change our position that the Iranian government must give up its nuclear ambitions, nor does it affect our decision to move forward to the United Nations Security Council," spokesperson Blame Rethreier said Saturday.



Members of the Ruslian Movement march during a rally assailing violence on the streets in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday. About 30 members of the religious group, which believes that extraterrestrials created life on Earth through genetic engineering, participated in this event. The signs read "No violence."

Almost half of Japanese fear possibility of war

TOKYO--ALMOST HALF OF JAPANESE FEAR the country could face war again, with North Korea's nuclear program and Chura's massive malitary buildup considered major threats to peace, according to a government survey published Sunday

The Cabinet Office survey, published in all major Japanese newspapers Sunday, said 45 percent of respondents believe Japan may become caught up in a war-up 1.8 percentage points from a 2003 survey-while only 16.5 percent disagreed.

The survey said that 63.7 percent of respondents cited North Korea's nuclear threat as a possible cause of regional conflict, followed by terrorist attacks and the rapid modemization of China's military.

Japan's relations with China have deteriorated in recent months due to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to a Tokyo war shrine that defends Japan's militaristic past, as well as disputes over Japanese history textbooks and territorial issues. Tokyo has repeatedly voiced concern about China's rising mintary spending, which it sees as a threat to regional



AT THE CENTER OF OUTING SCANDAL Former CIA agent Valerie Plame attends the White

House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington April 29. This is Plame's first public appearance since her identity was leaked to the media, which is under federal investigation. HEUTERS

Taliban behead Indian hostage

KANDAHAR, APGHANISTAN POice in Afghanistan on Sunday found the body of an Indian engineer kidnapped two days before by Taliban militares, a killing that earned swift condemnation from

A Taliban spokesperson, Yousuf Ahmadi, told AFP the killing of Surva Narayan, who was working as a contractor for Afghan mobile telephone network Roshan, was unintentional, but officials said the killing was no accident.

Narayan's body was found in Shahjoy district of restive Zabul southern province in Afghanistan, district police chief Mohammed Mir sold AFP

"His body was found beheaded m an area called Hassan Karez, so it cannot be an accident as the Taliban claim," an interior minstry official said on condition of anonymity.

Narayan was abducted Priday in Zabul province, along the main highway linking the capital Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar, buthplace of the Taliben movement.

On Saturday, the militants threatened to kill Narayan unless



K. MANJULA, wife of K. Suryanarayana, holds her husband's portrait and cries in Hyderabad, India, Saturday, April 29.

all Indian nationals and companies

left Afghanistan within 24 hours. The Indian engineer was in a room with one guard, he attacked the guard and punched hun, went out of the building running as other mujahedia shot him dead," Ah-

madi told AFP by telephone.

Ahmadi said the Taliban's council of leaders was "saddened" by the incident, as New Delhi had shown its willingness to negotiate for Narayan's re-

"We are sorry—the leading council had decided to extend the deadline for another 24 hours since the Indian side had showed gestures that they were ready to negotiate," he said.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh condemned what he called the "inhuman" killing of Narayan, who hailed from the southern Indian city of Hyder; abad and was a father of three.

Afghan interior ministry spokesperson Mohammed Yousuf Stanizai could not immediately

confirm the police findings. indian satellite channel CNN-IBN showed footage of Narayan's family in severe shock in Hyderabad after receiving news that he

had been killed. His wife Manjula and three children were crying inconsociably, surrounded by family members who were trying to

Bush, look-alike tickle reporters at White House dinner

WASHINGTON-IT WAS TWICE said, later adding, "He shot the the fun for members of the White only trial lawyer in the country House Correspondents' Association and guests when President George W. Bush and a look-alike, sound-alike sidekick poked fun at the president and fellow politicians.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I feel chipper tonight. I survived the White House shake-up," the president said Saturday night.

But impersonator Steve Bridges stole many of the best lines. Vice President Dick Cheney and his hunting accident were targets of his

humor on a couple of occasions. Speaking of suspects, where is the great white hunter?" Bridges

who supports me."

Bush continued a tradition begun by President Coolidge in attending the correspondents' dinner.

He invited Bridges to play his double. The president talked to the press in polite, friendly terms. Bridges told them what the president was really thinking.

Bridges opened like this: "The media really tick me off-the way they try to embarrass me by not editing what I say. Well let's things going, or I'll never get to bed."

"I'm absolutely delighted to be here, as is (wife) Laura," Bush "She's hot," Bridges quipped.

The featured entertainer was Stephen Colbert, whose Comedy Central show "The Colbert Report" often lampoons the Washington establishment.

T believe that the government that governs best is a government that governs least, and by these standards we have set up a fabulous government in Iraq," Colbert said in a typical zinger.

He also pard mock tribute to Bush as a man who "believes Wednesday what he believed Monday despite what happened Tuesday."

Yet it's the Who's Who of power and celebrity in the audience-invited by media organizations to

their dinner tables—that draws much of the attention.

Joining ABC were former Ambassador Joseph Wilson and his wife, Valerie Plame, the CIA officer at the heart of a leak investigation that has reached deep into the White House.

Others on the guest list included rapper-actor Ludacris, whose real name is Chris Bridges; James Denton, the hunky plumber on "Desperate Housewives" on ABC; "Dancing With the Stars" winner Drew Lachey; New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin; tennis player Anna Kournikova; and Plusburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roeth-



PRESIDENT Bush (right) and Steve Bridges, a comedian and President Bush Impersonator.



Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Text as your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Portmasters halt Painters by 3



HARBOUR Centre's Joseph Yeo finds the going tough and ends up with just 4 points.

Toyota Otis raps Hapee-PCU five

By Jasmine W. Payo

BACKUP POINT GUARD CHICO Lanete drained a three-pointer with 40.3 seconds left as Harbour Centre stunned leagueleader Rain or Shine, 59-56, in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

BAMES TOMORROW (San Andres Gym) 2 p.m. -Granny Goose vs TaleTech 4 p.rn.—Montana vs. Magnolia

Portmasters. scored their first Iranchise win over the seasoned Elasto Painters despite the absence of team star Joseph Yeo, who was ejected with 2:28 minutes left at the third period for hirring

Gilbert Maiabanan...

"Finally after six tries, Harbour Centre won versus Ram or Shine," said coach Jorge Galient. "Lanete won it for as despite a sprained ankle."

Reyes finished with 11 points and six rebounds, while LA Tenorio delivered another aliaround performance with 11 markers, 11 assess, four rebounds and two steals.

In the second game, Toyota Otis regained contro, in the fourth quarter to post a 69-59 victory over Hapee-PCU.

The Sparks tied Rain or Shine for second place at 7.3, behind Montana Pawnshop (7-2). Harbour Centre picked up .ts second straight win for a 4-6 slate, while Hapes PCU dropped to 3-7.

Despite Yeo's ejection, the Portmasters stubbornly held on to the tead antit Marvin Ortiguer ra and Jay-R Reyes teamed up to trum the deficit to a point, 54-53

An Ornguerra triple finally pushed the Painters on top for the first time, 56-54 with 1:42 left.

But Lanete responded with a dutch triple to push the Portmasters ahead, 57-56, with only 40.3 ncks left. Tenorio then nailed only one of his three free throws for 58-56, giving the Painters a chance to turn the game around.

But the Painters missed their last three at tempts, including Eugene Tan's potential wittning triple in the dying seconds.

The secres: First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 59-Reyes 11. Tenorio 11, Alonzo 8 Lanete B. Dy 5, Gaco 4, Malerhofer 4, Yeo 4, Gamboa 2, Arana ;

RAIN OR SMINE 56-Ortiguerra 15, Reyes 10, Enris 9, Mai abanan 7 Tangkay 7, Sta. Maria 4 Tan 3, Cabalu 1, Orbeta 0 Sagad O. Eman D.

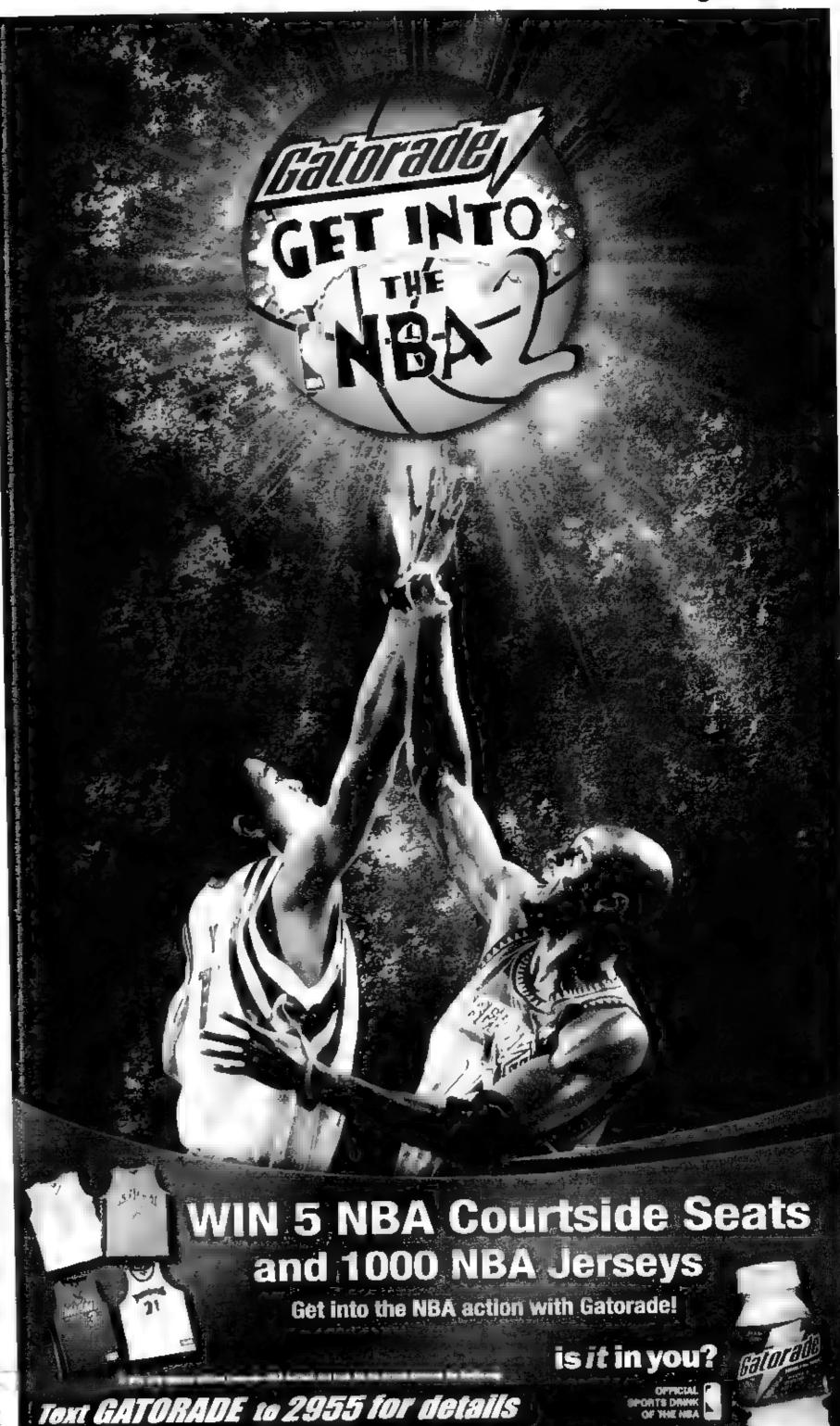
Quarters: 16-10, 27-19, 42-39, 69-56

Second Game

TOYOTA OF SALE-Saddours 17 Alders S. Code Q. Com. net 8, Oreta 7 Batuyot 2, "arong 0, Cabahog 0.

HAPEE-PCU 59-Sanz 23, Solis 10, Espinas 6, Castro 5 Amaparado 4, Garrido 2, Moreno 2, Bucacio 0, Guevarra 0, Gen-

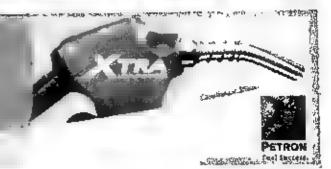
zales 0, Razon 0, Bacult 0. Quarters: 17-15, 36-26, 48-41, 89-59





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SPORTS

Rodman & Co. test PBA stars today

By Francis Ochoa

THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH THAT ONCE-A-WEEK PRACTICES CAN do for Chot Reyes as far as finding out how far his basketball program has gone. Anytime he can get a game in for his match-hungly national squad, he considers it a blessing.

We've been waiting in the sidelines for so long just to get a chance to play and we're pretty much excited that we have a great opportunity for us," said the national coach and basketball overlord of a group that's trying to wrest control of the sport's national federation.

That group, Pilipinas Basketball, finally gets the chance to play when infaces an assembly of American players at 5:30 p.m. today at the

Araneta Coliseum. Don't be deceived by the fact that half of the US team is known nowadays only for their name than for their game, legends whose collective basketball shelf life is way past its expiry date.

The other half of the US Legends squad is strong enough to give

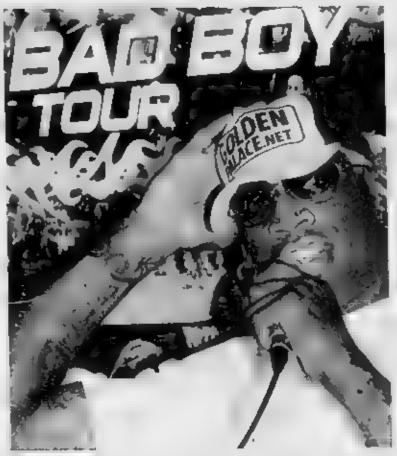
Reyes the shivers. You're looking at the wrong side

The other half, composed of unheralded NBA Developmental League (NBDL) players and that one noted NBA name still in good baskethall shape, poses a serious

And the 124-94 rout of a San Miguel Corporation touring squad of former pros in Cebu provided but a ghrupse of that threat.

"They have a talented and big team," Reyes said. "We didn't see everything that they are capable of doing (in the Mandaue game)."

NBDL standouts Oiu Famutini and Myron Allen are expected to lead the charge of the Legends team. And in the middle of that charge is Dennis Rodman, the 6foot-8 rebounding demon who can change the complexion of a match in many ways-mischief not being



REBOUNDING demon Dennis Rodman promises a big game.

Known for his eccentricity and naughty on-court behavior, Rodman showed he is still a force to contend with, hauling down 18 boards in Cebu.

Alex English, Calvin Murphy and Darryl Dawlons will lead the squad's legends half. Dawkins has promised an array of dunks which he will christen.

"Calvin has been very excited to play against the RP Team," said Mario Whitmire, president of the organizing West End Sports.

Whitmure also announced that ticket prices for general admission have been reduced to only P150.

Former MVPs Ast Taulava and Willie Miller and Jammy Alapag of Talk 'N Text will lead the RP Team, which will also have Air21 gunslinger Ren-Ren Ritualo and Alaska's Nic Belasco and Mike Cortez.

"There's not much big names here, these are the guys who are always present during practices and really dedicated to represent the country," Reyes said of his squad.

By the end of the match, Reyes hopes to get an idea of how far his team has gone and how much ground at needs to cover just in case. it gets the thumbs-up to represent the country in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

"We know we have developed already a sense of togetherness,"

Pacquiao fight tickets free, Wowwowee!

MANNY PACQUIAO HAS BEEN behaving confused. If not, why was he worried sick about his forthcoming big fight at the Araneta Coliseum?

There's a tested product: Pac- Recah quian himself, the single most saleable commodity in the Philippenes, the strongest one-man sales force in the country today.

Pacman could go sell the Jones Bridge to City Hall and the prospective buyers would most probably bute.

But our man of the hour had suddenly sounded unsure of him-

It was totally unexpected, but Pacquiao angrily protested after it was noted that Oscar Larios, the boxer he'll be fighting on July 2, could be no better than recycled Mexican meat.

Sorry, Kuyang, but we can't blame Manny, he's the hands-on promoter of his fight against Larios, bala nagkasunod-sunod lang," explained Peter Musng, ABS-CBN's tested impresario.

By "magkasunod-sunod," our friendly ABS-CBN exec meant the succeeding reports in this column which stated, among others, that: 1) Larios suffered a sifly knockdown against an obscure Japanese pug in Tokyo last year; 2) Larios was beaten silly by Israel Vasquez, a Pacquiao sparmate, in their last clash for the world 122-pound

Also, the subsequent question on why Larios was allotted a whopping \$450,000 purse, more expensive than a world champion, had not been an-Again, that itself should not

be cause for worry actiong handlers of the July 2 super bout at Araneta Coliscum.

Of course, some clarifications would've helped.

But the good news for Manny Pacquiao Promotions is that the masa, the wet-market crowds in particular, has been properly incensed, excited, won over, captivated by the Pacquoa-Larios mano-a-mano.

Talo ba tayo? (Are we losing?) asked a pudgy, sunbarnt bibugkasumma vendor at the Mandaluy-

The poor fellow, a billiards parfor habitue, was alarmed by claims stating Larios was a lot better than Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales, or both of the two Mexican ring greats combined.

These details about the alleged greatness of Larios were drumbeated during the over-decorated ABS-CBN pressoon on Friday, an affair that showed the giant television network is throwing everything behind the super fight.

A big hand to the promoters. The selling of Larios had been

colorfully handled, Perer Musngi must be believed at Malacañang, please.



when he said that, just like Pacquiao, ABS-CBN throws everything into any major project.

Truth is the Pacquiao bout has been sold out this early. Or before his opponent could be named, for that matter.

As the sharp street pollster puts it, Pacquiao would fill the Big Dome even if he boxes a chimp ("Maski tsonggo kontra Pacquao, papanoorin 'yan.")

In fact, ABS-CBN needed not have created a big problem by offering to give away all general admission tickets.

The best they could have done was sell these at prices well within reach of the poor, hungry mase that, no thanks to crippling poverty could no longer afford anything hereabouts.

ABS-CBN, mainly big boss Gabby Lopez, definitely meant well, but it's missing the main

You bet our poor brothers in the slums would beg and borrow just to be able to watch their super hero fight live and, wow, against a Mexican at that.

Now that the lowest priced passes would no longer be offered at the ticket booths, how do our very poor neighbors get hold of a ticket to the Pacquao

Risk their lives in another stampede?

Pardon this, but ABS-CBN had indulged in shallow sweet charity... that is expected to complicate

Of course, the problem is not with the poor general admission. crowds alone, which form the biggest bulk of fanancs who are still intoxicated with Pacquiao's sensational triumph in Las Vegas last January

Ticket prices should be within same reach of everybody, including members of the middle class and the affluent status gods of suburbia.

OK, poor fans need not worry. They would get their dream tick-

But don't look now. There's this suggestion that tickets to the Pacquiao bout be raffled off to the public at the Wow Wow Wee program, featuring the unsinkable Willy Revillance.

Explains Mr. Musngi: "Mechanics are still in the works for different ABS-CBN platforms including TV Radio, Cable, Interactive and Publishing."

Consult the Palace chief of staff and other crowd control geniuses

the least of them. of that team if you think it is weak," Bobby Pacquiao signs up with Top Rank

er of ring icon Manny, recently signed an exclusive contract with the Las Vegasbased Top Rank promotions.

Terms of the deal, other than it calls for a nine-fight stint for the Filipino pug, were not disclosed. Bobby signed the agreement together

with his management team made up of Cebu-based promoter Waxee Salud and American manager Michael Koncz.

"I am very happy and I feel great in signing with Top Rank," Bobby said in

BOBBY PACQUIAO, YOUNGER BROTH- Filipino. This is a great opportunity for me to show the world that there is another boxer named Pacquiao who can fight and is worth watching."

Bobby's first fight will be on June 10, when he defends his WBC Commental Americas title against Kevin Kelley in the undercard of the Miguel Cotto vs. Paulie Mahgnaggi pay-per-view match at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Manny, meanwhile, expressed gratinude to Top Rank, which has handled his last three fights.

"I have personally dealt with Top Rank, they have treated me well and with great respect," Manny, who is preparing for a July 2 boot with Mexican Oscar Larios in Manila, said.

Konez is credited for reviving the career of Bobby, who was knocked out in the 7th round by Rakkiatgym in a February 2005 fight.

Konez said that the deal with Top Rank was a bonus for the victory of Bobby Pacquiao over Carlos Hernandez last year. Salven L. Lagrambay, contributor



BOBBY Pacquiao

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Katigbak-Sangil tops Liberica Invt'l golf

and Raymund Sangil scored a twowin overall team low gross honors in the eighth Liberica Invitational golf championships of the Mount Malarayat Club here.

Boosted by the long-hitting Sangil's five-under-par 67 on Poday at the Mounts Malipunyo and Malculot mines, the team pulled away from the field and turned its championship round on Saturday a mere cakewalk.

Tino Gonzales-Severino Oliva tallied a net 265 for the overall net title, while the Virginia Bote-Josei Untal combine signed for 171 points for the overall team championship.

Sungbin Yoon-Gary Sales totaled 164 points to win the Division 1 diadem by 10 points over the Mark Mendoza-Eddie Bagtas Jr. team.

LIPA CITY—GERALD KATIGBAK Ricky Velasco, the chairman of the tournament, and guest Errol Cruz under-par 286 over the weekend to submitted 152 points for third

> Rey Brion and Jovey Eala amassed 160 points for the Division 2 crown, two ahead of Ding Andal-Joey Magcalayo, who finished with 158 points and nipped the Jess Bartolome-Gerry Jaspio tandem via the countback.

Francisco Wong Norberto Tulenuno ran away with the Division 3 crown after shooting a combined 163 points under the Stableford method of scoring. Malarayat chair Antonio Turalba and Cesar Muñoz finished second 12 points behind.

Cruz's gross 82 and net 71 gave him the Sponsors' Category title, with Emil Aiviar finishing second with a 72. Herman Hirang finished third and Francis Laurel fourth after losing in the countback to Alviac.

JVC reg'l gets going in Davao

OVER 300 PLAYERS from various provinces in Mindaneo buckle down to work today as they begin their chase for top honors in the Davao lag of the JVC Regional Badminton Championships at the Wheels 'N More Badminton Club in Davao City. Events on tap are the elite and juniors divisions with the winners to receive P5,000 and P3,000, respectively, plus medals and gift Herns. The intercollegiate champions will bring home P8,000 plus gift prizes. A spirited battle in all categories is expected since the top finishers will gain berths to the JVC Open Championships stated in July at Glorista.

(PDI-May 1 2006)

Learners - Prop

SPORTS

Ex-Japan titlist vying in nat'l club champs tilt

By Jong Arcano

TWENTY-SEVEN CLUBS HAVE SO FAR CONfirmed participation in the second National Tournament of Club Champions presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. and INQUIRER Golf slated on May 15-20 at the four courses of the sprawling Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

With six more dubs expected to send in their entnes before the May 5 deadline, this year's cast will be almost twice as big as the 18 that took part in the maugural edition, also at Eagle Ridge, last year. Defending champions Raymund Sangil and Katrina Gonzales are not in the field this time.

The roster is a mix of jungolf stars, low handicappers from the corporate sector and expatriates from as far north as Baguio and south as Davao.

Among those in the lineup are former Japanese national amateur champion Yasush. Kita who will represent Orchard, jungolf aces Mico Yee and Cyna Rodriguez who are the Riviera champions and corporate executives Indren Naidoo (Southwoods), Abe Rosai (Calatagan) and Edmund Yee (Southwoods).

Still being awaited are the entries from the Apo (Davao), Marapara (Bacolod), Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Capitol Hills, Royal Northwoods, The Country Club and Villamor.

The NTCC is also backed by Philippine Airlines as the official carner, Callaway as the official apparel, Platonic as hole-in-one sponsor, Titliest as the official ball, The Travel Club, Sta. Lucia Realty and Microtel as official hotel

The club champions will be officially presented in the Champions Ball on May 12 to be hosted by Incurrent president Sandy Prieto Romualdez and HSBC CEO Warner Manning.



SONNY LAGON, FIELDING HIS RENOWNED BLUE Blade Sweater roosters, dominated the GCAP Big Event One-Day 7-Cock Derby yesterday at the San. Juan Coliseum, Lagon, a Thunderbird Bexan XP-user, scored six straight wins to clinch the title with one



The first round on

May 15 will be spiced up by a skills challenge

where prizes for long

driving, pitching and

putting will be up for

The antries as of yester

day are: Alabang-Indren

Naidoo and Virtice Godie;

Aguinaldo-Ronria Littaua

and Matet Salivio; Alta

Vista Ed Actin and Irim

Gabasa, Bagulo Country

Club-Pill Lawrence; Calata-

gan Abe Rosal and Teresa

Howard: Cobu Country

Club -- Eric Deen and Kathleen

Uy, Eastridge—Park Jong-

sco and Tess Strub; Engle

Plidge—Jan Tarribogon and

Forest Hills-Larry Pat-

nongon and Viety Pegels; fiel-

Kwon Ye Seut:

grabs.

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Nert, Mentle Southwoode -- Edmund Yee and Beachts Ablera; Milmosa—Kim Hee-youen; MR. Materayet—Gerald Katigbak and Lily Young; Grotand-Yasushi Kita and Marissa Romano; Pueblo de Ore-Rolly Uy and Celine Menes: Rancho Palos Verdag-Alionso Marcelino and (melda Garcia; Riwers---Miko Yee and Cyna Radriguez Sherwood Hille-Terus Nakanishi and Mariene Ty-Sta, Elena—Jingy Tuason and Vinica Godiu; Samunit Palnt—Val Piata; Tagaytay Highlands—Augusto Theodore de Jesus and Mabel Kawselc Yngaytay Midlands-Oliver Gan and Beachie Ablers: Valley-Zaldy Villa and Violy Pegels; and Wack

match left since the closest challenger had only five points by then. His last assignment ended in a draw Lagon's entry, Blue Blade Against All Odds, in partnership with Gerry Ramos, was made up of four

Wast -- Matthew Manotoc and Katya dela Cruz.

Sweater-Kelso crosses, two Sweater-Gilmores and a Sweater: Hosted by the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines, the event lured 19 top entnes.



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SPORTS



JOHN ARIGO (right) goes up against All-Star MVP Asl Taulana. securent

PBA stars make the people who matter smile

By Francis Ochoa

CAGAYAN DE ORO CTIY-LONG ADORED BY their legions of fans nationwide, the brightest stars of the Philippine Basketball Association gave a little something back to the real people who prop up their careers.

They gave them the 2006 Hope PBA All-Star

From repeat slam dunk winner KG Canaleta parting on a pair of sunglasses and doing an impromptu jig after officials did the math and declared him champion to Jojo Lastimosa carving yet another milestone in a gym where he first honed his basketball skills to Danny Ildefonso and Asi Taulava watching their MVP bids rest in the hands of Roger Yap, fans managed to look past the no-shows and the slip-ups and take home a piece of the PBA with them.

"It's very rare that something as big as this happens here because we are such a small city," said 22-year-old Honey Mei Kho. "And they [PBA stars] even took the time out to visit hospitals and charities and left a lot of Cagayanons very happy."

The one thing I'll remember most is the slam dunk contest because KG was really, really amazing," she added.

"It was a lot of fun watching Enrico Villanueva play," said Mark Prudente, 25. "Td been looking forward to this to watch Enrico dunk and play. Plus, the players really wanted to win and they played defense, which is rare in All-Star games. It's really an event to remember."

The South team defeated the North, 122-120, and winning coach Jong Uichico admitted that the players left everything on the court for the



THE HOMETOWN South squad celebrates its 122-120 victory over the North team. In the end, though, the real winners were those who saw their favorite stars in action—the fant.

people who crammed the Xavier University gym of challengers that included ex-champs. Lastiin the two day spectacle.

"This is for the fans," said Uichico. "They were really so involved in the game and that's what fired up the players."

"It didn't matter who won," said Canaleta. "We just wanted to put on a good show for the fans."

And it was, indeed a good show. Canaleta won the siam dunk tilt against a host ment the weekend affair brought to their lives.

mosa, born and raised here, railied the Legends past the league's current crop of shooters. And the South squad went through uneasy moments before emerging victorious.

In the end, though, the real winners were the people who really mattered the most-those who cheered themselves hoarse, thrilled at the excite-

Drivers gear up for AF3 kickoff

INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF THEIR recent street drive, Asian Formula Three drivers have started testing in earnest for the opening three rounds of this year's circuit at the Batangas Racing Circuit on May 6-7.

One of them, female driver Gaby dela Merced, took a while adjusting to the power of her AF3 car in her initial test last week but is now raring to go.

"I am more focused on being familiar with the car," said Dela Merced 23, who is making the jump to AF3 from Formula Toyota. The first time I tested I was overwhelmed because the car is really powerful. I was able to feel the force and I got very excited."

"Gaby set a best time of one minute, 36.2 seconds, which is okay for a first timer," said team manager Edgen Dy-Liacco. "We are week."

Dela Merced and the other AF3 bets showed their driving skills before a big crowd in front of the Rajah Sulaman Park during the Ginebra San Miguel Street Drive on Roxas Boulevard in Manula.

Gaby will race in the Promotions class for Speedtech Asia and has for a teammate Tyson Sy the first Filipano to score a breakthrough win in last year's series by completing a golden double at the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia en route to a fourth place finish overall.

Dado Peña, backed by PLDT MyPAD (www.mypad.net), MOF, Hanjin Pena y Cia and Speedzone, is also back with Team Goddard, determined to improve on his sixth place overall finish last year.

The 2003 overall champion, Pepon Marave, will be back at the helm of a Kenetic F3 sure she will be close to the pace by race can Another Filipino, JP Tuason, will drive for Tuason Racing.





SY: Top RP bet

They will be up against a host of foreign drivers hadding to take over from where indonesian Ananda Mikola left off last year. Mikola emerged as the overall champion with a runaway 154 points on four victories in 12 rounds and has since concentrated on the All circuit. He will race anew, though. when the AF3 goes to Sentul in August.

has really rubbed off on the drivers," said AF3 Corp. chair 6d Peña. "They are consistent in testing and we expect their times to continue improving over the next few days. We have a great cast that includes top Filipino drivers. We can't wait to see what will happen in the opening three rounds."

Each of the six legs of this year's series, which will also include visits to Zhuhai, China, and Sentul, Indonesia, will consist of three rounds each, putting emphasis on the conditioning of the drivers and the preparation and maintenance of their machines.

The foreign cast is led by John O'Hara of Ireland, second placer last year who is bidding to win the overall title on his third try. He will team up with compatnot Ali Jackson of Aran Racing, an Irish team that made an initial foray into AF3 racing late last year.

Jackson has spent several days testing at

"The success of the Ginebra Street Drive BRC and has recorded a best lap time of 1.28.8 minutes at the 3.4-km circuit.

James Winslow of England, who edged Sy for third overall last year, was only onetenth of a second slower. He will go into this weekend's races fresh off a win, two second place finishes and a third place finish in the Australian F3 races.

Winslow will team up with fellow Briton Dillon Bathstini, a 28-year-old driver who rose through the ranks of British karting. They will drive for JA Motorsports, a new team being managed by Adachs San, the Japanese engineer who helped Mikola

clinch last year's ritle. Three Indonesian drivers are also in the field, including last year's Promotions class winner, Moreno Soeprapto, half-brother of Mikola. Soeprapto will drive for Speedrech Asia while Bagoes Hermanto and his brother, Satria, will drive for Joson F3.

SAN LAZARO RACES

Million Dollar, Spectacular Play hammer out contrasting triumphs

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE-TOP CHOICE MILlion Dollar set a blistering pace early and then dispatched his pursuers in the stretch vesterday to rule the Capt. Inocencio Crisostomo Cup by four lengths over Dixie The Younger at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Handled brilliantly by Jonathan B. Hernandez, the three-year-old chestrut colt jumped out of the gates hard, serried into his comfort zone before coming up with an unmatched finishing burst to complete the wire-to-wire triumph.

The progeny of Account of Grace out of Es Verdad clocked 1 minute and 34 seconds for the 1,500-meter race, outclassing the compact field that included fellow Triple Crown hopefuls King's Dominion and Batong Silyan

Million Dollar, who occupied the farthermost stall, refused to yield the lead to the fleet-footed Antonio Alcasid Jr.-ndden Batong Silyar and comfortably showed the way as the field passed the judges' stand for

King's Dominion, the Bull Market out of Reasonable Share offspring who owns a potent finishing kick, got to within a length of Million Dobar near the far turn.

But Million Dollar responded to a slight



JOCKEY JB Hernandez rides to victory in this file photo.

prodding by Hernandez, zooming to a three-length lead after the final turn to win with plenty to spare with quarter times of 17, 24, 25, 27. The win was worth P200,000 for owner Nap Claus.

While Million Dollar frolicked in setting the pace, Spectacular Play rallied mightily under veteran rider Jesus C. Guce to pocket the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup and share the day's limelight.

Guce worked the four-year-old chestnut filly Spectacular Play from fifth spot in the 1,600-meter race, picking off the pace-set-

ters one-by-one to win over the favored speedball Mamaya by four lengths.

The far fourth pick clocked 1:39.5 for the mile with quarter times of 25, 24, 24', 26 to win the P300,000 top prize. Mamaya won P112,500 for finishing second, while Marque, a longshot from the Hermie Esquerra stables, railied for third worth P62,500.

The wirning time was half a second off the track record by Cover Girl last year. The two races were part of a 13-race schedule that formally ended delebrations of the 32nd Marho Founders' Cup.

So draws with GM, keeps IM hopes alive

DURAL-WESLEY SO KEPT HIS BID FOR AN International Master result alive Saturday, salvaging a draw with Grandmaster Family Biscric of Bostua and Herzegovina in the seventh round of the 8th Dubas Open at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club here.

The 12-year-old So, who last month became the youngest Philippine team member to the World Chess Olympiad, notched his second draw and improved to 4 points for a share of 40th place along with 26 others including Woman GM Maria Sergeeva of

Sergeeva will be So's eighth-round oppo-

Thurd seed Gabriel Sargissian of Armenia stopped overnight solo leader and second seeded Kazakh Darmen Sadvakasov in just 23 moves of a Nunzo-Indian Defense to score 5 points and forge a triple tie for the lead with No. 8 Sergey Fedorchuk of the Ukraine and 11th-ranked Tigran Petrosian,

Fedorchuk inflicted a second straight loss on fifth seeded Ukrainian Evgenij Miroshnichenko after 55 moves of an English Opening while Petrosian rapped No. 6 Giorgi Kachershvili of Georgia after 42 moves of a Caro-Kann Defense. Marlon Bernardino,

Enduro SML starts May 27

IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE ENDURO In for the Novice category. San Mig Light Adventure Series.

After the huge success of the first Enduro series, the adventure race—tagged as one of the beggest sporting events of the year-lacks off its SML 2006 first leg on May 27 in Cebu.

Linbike last year where the racers encountered and survived Cebu City's deep terrains and cliffs, this time the Enduro SML Adventure highlights some of the south's exotic islands and tricky hills.

This year's Cebu leg, however, is open on-

Although open to hard-core and professional adventure racers, the category is suited best for the weekend warmors, and students.

More than P100,000 in cash prizes are up for grabs along with San Mig Light premaum irems and trophies at the end of the four-tosix hour quest.

The Enduro SML Adventure Series, sponsored by San Mig Light, has tested the endurance, stamma and skills of participants. For inquiries, call (632) 414 1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph.

PJ Tierro, rising star of tennis

IF BASKETBALL DID NOT CAPTIVATE them, (Carlos) Loyzaga, (Robert) Jaworski, (Ramon) Pernandez, (Alvin) Patrimonio and (Rico) Villanueva could have been famous too in another sport like tennis because they have the height and build. They could have been world-class players competing in the Wimbledon, French Open, US Open, Australian Open and all the other

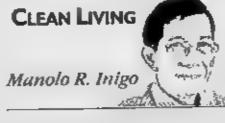
PJ Tierro is aiming to realize that goal. With his long reach and towering height, this 6-foot-1 athlete from Olongapo City is slowly but surely reaching that target. Now the country's No. 1 teams player, the 20year-old Tierro has moved up in the ATP ladder to 927th from his previous 1,171.

Tierro is supported by a dedicated group

of trainers, coaches and sponsors. He is now on his third year of a five-year development program run by veteran terms coach Beeyong Sison and bankrolled by sponsman Jean Henri Lhuillier.

Under the program, Tierro is trained to acquire playing skills not only by the typical training workouts but by competing in acmai tournaments here and abroad. The team believes that for Tierro to learn more about the game, he should travel to other countries and play in different surfaces such as clay, shell and grass against some of the workl's top netters and under all play-

"I personally believe in P.J's talent," said Untilities. "He has the heart and dedication to pursue excellence in his sport. Provided



with the right training and exposure, PJ will reach his full potential."

The Filipeno gained the attention of former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash while amending the Pat Cash Tennis Academy in Brisbane in 2003, "Tierro is definitely a talent with a world-class forehand," Cash said. It was also in 2003 when Tierro's potential was first noticed. He reached the finals of

the Cebuana Untillier Men's Circuit where he lost to then No. 1 ranked Johnny Arcilla, Tierro advanced to the finals after beating then No. 2 and Davis Cup player Joseph Victorino in the semifinals.

In 2004, Tierro played in the Davis Cup Zonais where he defeated Hong Kong's Hiu Tung (ATP 970), capping the year with a nail-biting 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Rolando Ruel in the finals of the Spex-Philta Open, In his travels to Europe, Tierro spent a total of 10 weeks in Germany competing in non-ATP/TTF Open tournaments that boosted his confidence. He took part in his first ATP/TTF event in the latter part of 2004 during the \$25,000 India Satellite Circuit where he played alongside ATP ranked

2005 was a busy year for Tierro. He practically lived in a suitcase, playing in various local tournaments and in several Asian countries such as Indonesia, India, Thailand and Japan as part of the country's preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Garnes. That paid off as Tierro, together with Johnny Arcilla and Fil-American setters Cecil Momilit and Eric Tamo, won the SEA Games' team gold medal. The team's strong showing revived interest in the sport and boosted our chances as well of making good in the coming Doha Asian Games.

"I'm so thankful that I have the support of my parents (Beyani and Melba Tiero), coaches and sponsors, especially sir Jan Jerri, in pursuing my career in tenus," Tierro said.

Adamson tossers eye solo lead vs SSC

TOP MEETS BOTTOM TODAY AS Adamson guns for its third straight victory against winless San Sebastian even as Philippine Christian shoots for its second win in three starts against struggling University of the East in the V-League presented by Shakey's at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Led by the talented Cherry Rose Macatangay, the Lady Fairons swept the Lady Dolphans, 25-14, 25-20, 25-20, before struggling past the Lyceum Lady Pirates, 25-20, 26-24, 24-26, 25-15, to share the lead

The Lady Archers, seeking a third straight crown in this tournament organized by Sports Vision Management Group, Inc., proved steader than rivals Ateneo Lady Eagles, 25-13, 25-22, 18-25, 21-25, 15-11, late Sunday for their second straight win.

The Lady Raicons are expected to encounter stiff resistance as the reigning NCAA champions are out to bounce back from successive setbacks to La Salle and PCU last week.

Adamson and SSC tangle at 6 p.m. while PCU and UE clash in the opener at 4 p.m. ABC-5 will telecast the games beginning at

GAMES TODAY (Blue Engle Byte) 4 p.m.—PCU vs UE 6 p.m.—Adamson vs San Sebastian

4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

San Sebastian bowed to La Salle's power game, 21-25, 20-25, 19-25, then dropped a hearthreaking 23-25, 22-25, 25-14, 25-21, 19-21 loss to the Lady Dolphus that sent them reeling at the bottom of the eightteam pack in this event backed by Mikasa, Accel and ABC-5.

The Lady Stags vow to come out smarter

against the San Marcelino-based spikers.

"We just hope to learn from our loss to PCU by playing harder in our next game," said SSC coach Roger Gorayeb, who led the Mendiola-based spikers to 11 straight titles in one long NCAA stretch.

Gorayeb is expected to rely anew on Thai guest player Bualee Jaroensti, who pumped in a season-best 35 points, including 31 on attacks in her debut.

Jaroensn, a 23-year-old power hitter, will be up against an equally formidable foe in Macatangay, the country's top player today.

That would be an interesting match-up,

one that shouldn't be missed," said Adamson mentor Duice Pante, who coached the San Marcelino-based school to a pair of runper-up finishes in the UAAP and the University Games last year, in Filipino.

Meanwhile, the Lady Dolphins hope to sustain the momentum of that big victory over the Lady Stags and improve their 1-1 (win-loss) record. The Lady Warriors, on the other hand, are seeking to end a two-game

"We just want to keep on playing hard and win more games," said PCU coach

Tan Ho, Murrell shine in Toby's tennis

Top 16-under seed Balce falls short; Barte pulls through

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Academy's Jasmine Tan Ho pulled off a 6-1, 6-4 win over top seed Shanine Olivarez yesterday to pocket the girls' 12-under title in the 2006 Toby's Age-Group (Tennis Championships at the Metropolitan Tennis Club in Rockwell Center.

It was the first-ever 12-under tide for the 11-year-old Tan Ho after a runner-up finish in the Truflex National Age-Group re-

In the boys division, unranked Jonathan Murrell stunned top seed Mark Balce, 7-5, 6-3, to capture the 16-under title while top BARTE: Champ, as expected

SPORTSWATCH

Joseph summer camp set

camp to be held at Camp Cail in Lake Caliraya in

Laguna this month. Open to lids 7 to 15 years

old, the camp is a fun experience in the great

cutdoors with participants spending their

mornings swimming, kayaking and salting.

Skills are developed thru treiding, island adven-

tures, and orienting, while afternoons are spent

Personalized cage clinic KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE ASSURED OF

rigid training and personalized instruction from some of the country's top mentors and players in the Coach E Basketball School which opens. tomorrow at San Beda-Alabang, International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunap yesterday thanked rector-president Anscar J. Chupungco, OSS, treasurer Senedict M. Fabia,

OSB, and other San Beda officials for hosting

the school founded by former PBA coach Eric

Altamirano. Registration on site ternorrow

starts at 9 a.m. Sessions will be held twice a

week (Tuesdays and Fridays) for the whole

month of May. For inquiries, call 631-1195 or

0921-7562639, or e-mail lba_phil@yahoo.com.

67 tiffs in San Juan derby

COCKFIGHT ENTHUSIASTS CONVERGE TO-

day at the San Juan Coliseum for a special 5-

cock derby which ldcks off at 5 p.m. with 67

matches lined up. Sponsor is Sagupaan Com-

plexor 3000. Bacolod breeder Arnold Meridoza,

the derby host, assembled a tough rast of par-

ticipants from rivals National Cockers Associa-

tion and the Gentlemen Cockers Association of

the Philippines. Carrying the colors for NCA are

congressmen logy Arroyo, Gerry "Boy" Espira

and Butch Pichay, Rudy Albano, the Sundance

group, Danny Valero, Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Jiao.

Ruel Ricalort and Ellar Nagano, Patrick Antonio

leads the powerhouse GCAP learn that includes Tony Lasala, Rep. Jing Paras, Mayor Dennis

Pineda, Benile Lim, Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo,

Makati 'Salpukan' ali set

THE "SUMMER SALPUKAN" 6-COCK DERBY.

a seven-day cockfighting spectacle with P4.4

million in prizes at stake, resumes on Tuesday at

the Makati Colliseum. Participants vying in Tues-

day's 3-cook third round eliminations must sub-

mit entries today until 9 p.m. For inquiries, call

898-3545 or 895-6475. Backed up by 8-Meg

Derby Ace, the super derby has attracted more

than 300 entries as of yesterday. Promoters Lito. Orliteza, Rudy Salud and William Co said that no straight six cocks will be allowed in any day

since participants must pass through the qualifying rounds. Provincial cockers and walk-in

PAGING

BY TOP CHOICE

(5) Felt Droub (4), Schilbin Act (3), Letshavaparty (2). Place 10—(Dri/Frl)—Special Schence (4), Hate And Hearry (6), Amesoure Power (1), Galay's Charm (3). Place 11—(Dri/Frl)—Love And Money (4), American Beauty/Diamond Say (5), Something Silver 3).

(5), Feir Urduja (4), Golden

participents may still field an entry either on

May 4 or 6, sald Orillaza.

velous Jay (4)

2—(Druffi)—Neor (6),
Magic Dancer (3), Silver
Cho Cho (7), Cool Turner

(2)
Race 3—(Ont/Trl)—Sound Value (2), Top OI D'Line (6), Mas Oue Nada (3), Reporter (5)
Race 4—(Ont/Trl)—Joher (6), Oseen Benara (1), Classy Papes (6), High Spirit (2), Place 5—(Brt/Trl)—Wet N Wind, (1), Caldebra (5), Song Bed (6), Centro (4)
Race 5—(Ont/Trl)—Simply Both (6), Smooth Sinks (3), Well Noted (2), Gold Fever (6)

Rece 7—(Tri)—Qui Paris (2). Don'i Tell Elia (4), Angel Ol

Appe 8 — (Brt/7ri) — Remus (6), Bitzkneg (3), Rouson To Balane (1), Hang Iking

9 -{Ort/Tay 94 peets

Race 1—(Tri)—Shy Sir (3), So-cially Climber (5), Mar-

Bong Villanueva, and boxing champ Manny

Pacquiao, Eric dela Rosa and Jun Jingco.

stimulating the lods' minds through peinting.

beading, tie-dying, music appreciation and cooking. For inquiries, call Mariet at 810-9606

A COMPLETE SUMMER LEARNING EXPERI-

ence awaits participants in the str-day lids'



classed Johnwill Baldonado, 6-1, 6-2, to win the 18-under crown in the event supported by Prince, Aktivade, Equipe, Eastpak, Nassau and Powerbar.

Top seed Jose Lorenzo Perrer breezed past No. 4 Kim Polero, 6-1, 6-1, to win his thurd straight boys' 14-under title. The incoming grade 7 student at Xavier School won the Milo-Philam leg and Juntaphil Juniors in Baguro early this year. He also won the 12-under and 14-under titles in the 2005 PCA Open Juniors.

No. 1 Dheo Talatayod defeated second seed Calvin Canlas, 6-0, 6-1

seed Ralph Kevin Barte out- 6-4, to clinch the boys' 16-under title while unseeded Jurence Mendoza of Olongapo City bagged the unisex 10-under title over third seed Vince Salas, 6-1,

In other garls finals results, top seed Jessica Marie Agra won the 18-under title over second pick Trudy Gine Amoranto, 5-4 (ret.). Agra had earlier won the 16-under title after posting a 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-5 victory over Amoranto.

Fifth seed Martina Guba of La Carlota, Negros Occidental won the 14-under championship over fourth seed Sarah Jane Lim, 7 5,

Republic of the Philippines Department of Health TONDO MEDICAL CENTER Balut, Tondo, Manila

TMC-BIDS & AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center hereby kryltes sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of Food Stuff, Medical and Various Equipment, Drugs & Medicines, Dental X-ray, Medical & Surgical Supplies, Leboratory reagents for 2nd semester Cy. 2006

Interested applicants must submit pre-qualifications/supporting document, payment of non-rehandable fee for Drugs & Medicine (1900) Dental, X-ray, Medical/Surgical, Laboratory Reagent (1,000) Food Stuff (800) Medical & Venous Equipment (1,500).

For complete list please get a copy from the supply Office, Balut, Tundo, Manila. of Dutaline Assistation now on Inflower

	Lus Senemens	OI DIOGRAD ACTIONS			
	Issuance of bids	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening	
Drugs and Medicine	April 24, 2006 10 May 12, 2006	May 15, 2005 10:00 AM	June 13, 2006 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	June 13, 2006 10,30 AM	Revolvi
Medical/Surgical Supplies, X-ray Dental Supplies & Laboratory reagents	April 24, 2096 to May 12, 2006	May 18, 2006 10,00 AM	June 14, 2006 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	June 14, 2006 10,30 AM	Regular Fu
Food Stuff	April 24, 2006 to May 12 2006	May 17, 2006 10:00 AM	June 15 2006 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	June 15, 2006 10 30 AM	400
Medical & Various Equipment	April 24, 2006 to May 12, 2006	May 18, 2006 10-00 AM	3une 16, 2006 8:00 AM 10:06 AM	June 15, 2006 18 30 AM	

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference Bid evaluation an eward of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise know as the Government Procurement Relorms Act. All activities shall be held at Tondo Medical Center, Conference Room, Balut, Tondo, Manita

uniess announced otherwise. For further details please contact Secretarial Tondo Medical Center at Tel. No. 251-8421 to 23 toc. 207 TONDO MEDICAL CENTER BAC, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, TO

ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTHE PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASON FOR DOING SO, TMC BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE

(Sgd.) VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, N.D., CESO IV Medical Center Chief II

POL April 24 h May 1 2009

Republic of the Philippine PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION Livasing Horifocas, 1000 Munic.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation, through its Special Bids and Awards Committee for MPO-IPS Project, arvives e-Business Solution providers, specifically those envolve in the supply of computer hardware and software intrastructure of the International Postal System (IPS), to apply for eligibility and to but for the different category of

Identification Index No.

Modernization of the Processing at the Mail Processing Office, CMEC, PPC

(MPO-IPS Installation Project)

Procurement of computer hardware and software infrastructure of the Int'l Postal

SOURCE OF FUND	CATEGORY	PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENT	(in US Dollar)	PERIOD
Quality Service Fund of the Universal	1. Computer HW and ISW	Supply of computer hardware # pobvare, printer including installation (electrical wrining and cabting)	50,543 37	Forty-Fire (45) days
Postal Union	Layer scanner printer and ds consumables	Supply of barcode scanner, bercode printer and its accessories	15,448.29	
	3 Digital weighing scale to be interfaced of computer	Supply of digital weighing scale will Ru-232 interface	4,809.00	
	4. Computer tables and AC	Supply of humature/Fotore	2 106 59	
		TOTAL	72,698.25	

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within at least five (5) years with an amount of all least 50% of the proposed project for briding. The eligibility check as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the passifield chiene. Post qualification of the lowest calculated and shall be conducted.

All particulars reliative to the Etigiolary Check and Screening, Bid Security. Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids. Post Chalification: Award of Confract and Performance Security shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The complete schedule of attivities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ECHEDULE		
Age LIANTED	Cale	Timo	
1 Issuence of Engineery Requirement & Bid Documents	April 26, 2006	9 AM-4 PM	
2 Dendice of Submission of Application for Eagibility and to Bid	May 18 2008	4 258	
9 Pre-Bid Conference	2.35 ct 450 c	1 PM	
4 Deadline for the Submission of Bid Proposal	June 07, 2008	9 AM	
	June 07 2008	NA OF	
5 Opening of Biol 6 Post-quartication	Water 7 days of	or operang of balls	
7 Nouce of Award	Witten 14 days pli	er posit-qualification	

Accreditation Fee & P400 00, Blight-My Fee Is P600 00, Bid Doctorest Fees are a.) P4,000 00 for computer HW & SW 5.] P1,500 00 for scanner/printer c.) P500.00 for digital-weighing scale d.) P200 00 for accessorable respectively. The Philippel records line right or reject any Std. to around the bidding process, and to reject of Ship, at any time point to contract award, well-dust incurring any leadily from the affected technique.

For information and details, please call: UPU-OSF Special Bids and Awards Correction

thing Silver 3) [2—(Chaffi) - Golden Toech [6] Honored (2), Lady fycoon [5], Naga Val-Philippine Postal Corporation GJF Mezzarine Manta CPO 8009 Tel No (632) 527-3624 (632) 527-0140 13--(Bust) 6/0/L/Yr)—Gold Print (7), Selosa (11), Thereshope (3), Sea Star (4), Mac-mum Impact (8), Mr.

(PDS-Appl 24 & May 1 2008)

LUIS O. CARLO Special BAC for JPU-QSF MPC-IPS Projects

APPROVED:

Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON AUDIT Regional Office No X Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City 9000 **★** (088) 858-7422, (088) 855-1498

 coert@websprinter.net BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items The Commission on Audit Region X, intendeto apply the sum of Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Severn Thousand Peace (Php4,677,000.00) broken down as follows.

CPL competitie with 32 ba-64bit strantamentally 1.8 GHz Compable to run on multiple OS pipeliones (Windows, Linux, etc.); 1MB cache level 2 On-board graphics curriciler cord 8 DMB or higher (Video not shared on FIAM) 512 MB Memory, dust interiory charmet: 1 byperimmsport trik (8Gtps) With bull-in 2 firewise ports (EEE1394, With bust-in 6 USB 2 0 ports 1 PCI-express x 15 stxt (reserve for graphics accolunator), 2 PCI-express x 1 stxt. 4 Conventional PCI state (32-tat, 33 kthz), 400W power supply: AVR 500W 80 GB Sensi ATA, 7200 rpm, DVD ROM optical drive. 15" color member Ptrp 3,819,000.00 Keyboard & remain with ped; 3 yes warractly

1 and COMPLITER. Branded faith the same specifications show except for RAM-1 GB Memory)

30 units WHINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY 400W power autput or highes 20 unes COMPUTER TABLE Steel Frame, SIGMA

14 units PRINTERS. Hip useer Jet, up to 19ppm

ikiton upto 1200 x 1200 dp. Memory 8 MS 3 mile LAPTOP COMPUTERS, Branded, 17 GHz/533 MHz FSR 512 MB PC2-I200 DDR2 RAM 2 MB L2 counts: 60GB 5400 rpm HDD Intel 945 GM Chipset: CD-RWIDVD-ROM Combo Drive, 1 44 MB FD 1011000 Mbps NIC Intel 802 11 big varieties (MPCI), 2 USB, 1 parallel. esterned deploy R.-45 (athernet) and R.I-11 (modern) parts.
Keyboard and Mouse, OEM Windows XP Professional.

252,000,00 Php-4,677,000.00

85,000,00

201,000.00

80,000,00

being the Approved Busines for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE home. Birts sectived in extents of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening Interested States may obtain a complete set of Bidding December's starting April 27 to May 5, 2005

upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Free Hundred Pessas (Php500 00) from the BAC Secretarial ob RCD Hesselnds A Valence, \$\frac{1}{2}\text{008} \text{p55} \text{308} A Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Ord City The Currentes on on Austineti hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to elitherested parties on May 10, 2005

at 2.00 p.m. at COA Conference Room, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City

Deutinu for automission of Bote shall be an May 24, 2006, al 2,00 p.m., at COA Regional Olice No. X. Cagaryande Oct-Oily, inemakkasily after the deading, bein will be opened in the presence of the Sudders' entainment with choose to adjust all the shows artifeen 5 The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject, any Bid, to annul the hidding process.

and to rejuct all dieds of any imm poor to contract exceed, well out thereby incurring any labelity to the

(Sgd.) FELIX P. ALBINDA Chairmen, Bids and Avends Committee

24088/858-2964 the final purchase of the first of the first

(PDI April 24 & May 1, 2006)



Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE East Avenue, Quezon City

E-mail Address: Itombox@ito.gov.ph • Website: www.ito.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid 166 units Patrol Motor Cycles for the use of LTO Sectoral Head Office, Regional Offices, CAR & CARAGA

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 151 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Fourteen Million Five Hundred Staty Thousand Pesos (P14,560,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the 106 units Patrol Motor Cycles for the use of LTO Sectoral Head Office, Regional Offices, CAR & CARAGA, Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section R of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Sidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using nondiscretizacy passifali criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipmo chizons/solo proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to calzens or organizations of a country the laws of regulations of when grant similar rights or univeleges to Felpino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section B of the Bidding-Documents, (TB. The bidder with the Lowest Calcutated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to shally determine responssiveness. of the bid to technical and financial/equirements of the project. The contract shall than be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Rosponsiva Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable lee in the amount of Php 10,000 00. in the form of cash. The Biodong Documents shall be received personelly by the prospective

Budder or his authorized representative. The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on April 21, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO-Library East Averse, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before May 3, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accomparied by a Bid security in any of the

Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
One percent (1%)
One and a half Percent (1 14%)
Two and a hall Percent (2 1/2%)
One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted Bid opening shall be on May 3, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenua, Ocio2011 City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to

attend at the address below The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to as not the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without theraby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office Alty, Jimmy G. Posigan - Chairman, BAC East Avenue, Quezon City

(02) 921-9077 - telelax Eugr Roberto S. Se, Charman, BAC Sub-Commblee Property Section, LTO, East Avonue, Quezon City (DZ) 9292015 - Iniciax

(Sgd.) ATTY, JIMMY G. PESIGAN

POI May 1, 2000

BAC-Chairman

(All in exact order)



Bucks slow Pistons; NJ Nets charge back

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN-Michael Redd and the Milwaukee Bucks showed the body." Detroit Pistons they don't plan to go down without a fight in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Redd scored 15 of his playoff career-high 40 points in the third quarter and Mo Williams added 20 off the bench on Saturday as the Bucks beat the Pistons 124-104, claiming their first win In three games of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference first-round series.

Reserve Joe Smith scored 13 points and TJ Ford handed out 15 assists for the Bucks, who shot 60 percent and made 11-of-17 from the arc. After suffering back-to-back double-figure

losses at Detroit in the first two games of the senes, Milwaukee put together an early lead and never looked back.

Ford admitted that the prospect of a possible

sweep by the powerful Pistons was a strong motivator for Milwaukee.

"Nobody wants to be swept," Ford said. "No-

Redd frustrated Detroit's defense throughout. He shot 14-of-21 from the floor, including 4-of-5 3-pointers, and also grabbed five rebounds.

The Bucks held a seven-point edge at intermussion before pulling away for good as Redd hit two 3-pointers during a commanding 23-6 burst through the first eight minutes of the period, helping build an 84-60 advantage.

The Pistons allowed the most points since giving up 120 to Washington on Nov. 25.

Chauncey Billups, who scored 26 points, made two free throws to cut the deficit to 94-79 with 10 1/2 minutes remaining in the game. However, Redd responded by scoring Milwaukee's next three baskets, keeping the Pistons at bay. The Bucks will try to even the series in Milwaukee on Monday.

In Indianapolis, the New Jersey Nets knotted their series with the Pacers at two games apiece

Vince Carter scored eight of his 28 points in the final four minutes and added seven assists, six rehounds and six steals for the Nets, who host game five on Tues-

"It came down to execution and focas," Carter said. "They jumped on us quick the other night and our shooting

Tonight, we weathered the storm and stayed focused. This was a big win for us and now, if we want to be known as a good playoff team, we have to protect our home court."

Vince did a phenomenal job tonight," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said.

"Not only was he a scorer, but he was a great playmater, too. He stepped up big and that's what great players do."

Richard Jefferson scored 22 points and Nenad Krstic 21 for New Jersey, which jumped out to a 22-8 advantage and led thereafter.



NEW JERSEY Nets superstar Vince Carter (left) soars past Indiana's

Mays, Clippers move closer to next round

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE-THE DALLAS Mavericks railied for an overtime victory here Saturday to move within one game of a first-round sweep of Memphis in the National Basketball Association playoffs. Dirk Nowitzki sank a game-tying 3-

pointer with 15 seconds left in regulation and scored 24 of his 36 points after halftime as the Mavencks rallied for a 94-89 overtime triumph over the Grizzlies and a commanding 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference series.

"They basically had the game won," said Nowitzki, "Obviously, it's a big win for us. If they make it 2-1, they'd be even more fired up the next game. So this is great." The Los Angeles Clippers also moved

within one game of advancing with a 100-86 victory in Denver that gave them a 3-1 lead over the Nuggets.

all-time postsesson record, led 76-72 with just 28 seconds left.

Dallas' Jason Terry split a pair of free throws, but the Mavenchs corralled the rebound and catled a timeout.

Terry missed a short runner on the ensuing play, but Erick Dampier deflected the



DIRK Nowitzid and the Dallas Mavericks go 3-0 up against the Memphis Grizzlies. At

offensive rebound out to Nowitzki, who Memphis, which entered with an 0-10 took one dribble to his left before knocking down a heavily contested 3-pointer from the top of the arc to forge a 76-76 tie.

Memphis missed a chance to win in regulation when Chucky Atkins came up short on a driving layup from the right wing at

the buzzer. The score was tied again, 79-79, with 16 and six assists off the bench for the Clip-

3:48 remaining in the extra sec Nowitzki converted a short fallaway jumper from the left elbow to give Dallas the lead for good.

The Mavericks can complete a four- range.

game sweep with a win on Monday. In Denver, Corey Maggette scored 19 points and Shaun Livingston contributed

the series in five games at home on Mon-

All-Star Elton Brand, Sam Cassell and Cuttino Mobley each scored 11 points for the Clippers, who moved within one win of their first playoff series triumph since 1976, when the franchise was known as the Buffalo Braves.

The Chippers built 52-40 edge when Maggette and Livingston dramed consecutive jumpers 3 1/2 minutes before half-

Denver's Carmelo Anthony, who scored 17 points, made 1-of-2 free throws eight numutes into the second half to cut the deficit to 67-58. But the Nuggets got no closer as Los Angeles bridged the quarters with an 18-7 surge.

Marcus Camby and Andre Miller scored 14 points apiece and Earl Boykins added 11 for Denver, which shot 41 percent overall but once again struggled from 3-point

Setur Sports—Cleveland vs Washington (7:30 p.m.) RPN 9-San Antonio vs Sacramento (7:30 p.m.)

Shaq fined \$25,000

Stephen Jackson for a layup.

NEW YORK—Shaquille O'Neal was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Saturday for pub-Boly criticizing officials after Game 3 of the Miami Heat's playoff series against the Chicago Bulls. O'Neal had only eight points, four rebounds and five fouls in Miami's 109-90 loss to the Bulls on Thursday at the United Center. The Bulls out the Heat's lead to 2-1 in this first-round series, and have a chance to the it Sunday afternoon. After get- s ting into early foul trouble, O'Neal spent most of the second quarter on the bench. The Heat center had only one basket in the first three quarters, and said after the game he was "humiliated." O'lveal said referees target him and he knew he was in trouble when he saw Bob Delaney was working the

Hot Nadal molds more clay success

BARCELONA, SPAIN-DEFENDING CHAMPION Rafael Nadal won his 46th straight match on day when he defeated fellow Spamard Nicolas Almagro, 7-6 (2), 6-3, Saturday to claim his place in the final at the Open Seat Godo.

Tormy Robredo, champson in 2004, beat unseeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4, to set up an all-Spanish final.

Nadal and Robredo have met twice before, in the third round in Madnd and the semifinals in Bastad in 2005. Nadal won both in straight sets. "It could be a long match as he runs a lot," said

Nadal said: "It's going to be a difficult match, it'll be tough physically."

Guillermo Villas holds the Open era record on clay with 53 consecutive wins, while 11-time Grand Slam champion Bjorn Borg also has 46 straight victories.

"You can't compare me to Borg, he was the greatest termis player of all time," Nadal said. "I can't see myself winning five Wimbledons."

But Almagro could not see an end to Nadal's winning streak.

"I think Rafa will make his own mark on the game. Whoever bears him on clay will have

earned great merit," Ahnagro said.

Robredo, who reached the semifinals at the Monte Carlo Masters last week, said he had recovered from an abdominal injury.

"In Monte Carlo, I noticed a strain in the abdominal region. I began playing doubles here in Barcelona but had to give up because I couldn't serve without pain, but the rest helped to clear it up," the 23-year-old Robredo said.

Almagro had won nine straight matches, including his first title in Valencia two weeks ago. He had beaten three seeded players in Barcelona and hadn't dropped a set until this loss.



Champions score new badminton point system

SENDAI, JAPAN-OLYMPIC AND WORLD badminton champion Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia has joined Chinese stars here to oppose the new scoring system being tested at the Thomas and Uber Cup in Japan.

"I don't like it. I don't understand why the IBF (International Badminton Federation) always tnes to change the rules," said the 25-year-old Indonesian after playing his first match in six weeks Saturday following an injury layoff.

"Under the new format, there's not an exciting situation and spectators also do not like it. The

game has become monotonous. Previously they tried to introduce a sevenpoint system. Why can't they stick to the same rules like tennis? Of course, sponsors and television are important, but they should also think

about players," added Hidayat. The IBF has been testing a new scoring system, using a 21-point rally scoring format to make the game shorter and more exciting.

IBP deputy president Punch Gunalan has said-Change is necessary. We want to make it a sport that is orientated towards family entertainment and is media- and player-friendly."

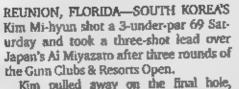
"At present, under the 15-point system, no one knows how long it will take the game to finish. If

it is agreed, it will become a permanent feature." Under the new format, a point is awarded for a raily won and whoever scores the point holds service. For the doubles, the winner of a rally holds service but there will be no second server.

If the IBF approves the format in May in Tokyo, it should be adopted for all tournaments including the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

China's Zhang Ning and Xie Xingfang, the top two female singles players in the world, have also criticized the new sooring system during their defense of the Uber Cup.

Robredo of his final against top-seeded Nadal. Kim pulls away from Miyazato on 18th



Kim pulled away on the final hole, birdieing the par-4 18th while Miyazato double bogeyed.

Christina Kim was alone in third place, five shots off the lead after three straight birdies closed her 69 on a windy day that made already slick greens even more daunt--ing, adding to the challenge of a long course enjoys the layout. The former American LP-

this week and still haven't quite figured out.

"it's got a lot of strange little nuances that no one really knows because not a lot of people have played here a lot," Christina Kim said. "The greens are what really kills us. It's one of the longest courses we get all year, just over 6,500 yards long. And then you've got the wind. This course, it can be a monster."

Maybe so, but Kim Mi-hyun-who last won on the US LPGA tour in 2002-dearly

Unheralded Couch goes worst-to-first

that most tour players hadn't seen before GA rookie of the year made only one bogey Sanurday and four birdies.

Tim nervous every day, every day before when I tee off," Kim said. "But after I tee off, I forget about that." She made a burdle on No. 18 while Miyaza-

to, one of her playing partners, four-putted.

"I have to forget. Tomorrow is another day," Miyazato said. "I don't feel like this was the end of the world. I still have a lot of

With one round left, only nine women are within nine shots of the lead.



AI MIYAZATO (standing) falls three strokes behind Kim Mi-hyun.

NEW ORLEANS—CHRIS COUCH WENT from worst to first Saturday, shooting an 8-under-par a day after just making the cut to take the lead after three rounds of the Zurich Classic.

One day after closing with two tough pers to make the cut on the number, Couch climbed the leaderboard and signed his card 30 minutes before 36-hole leader Joe

Durant teed off. The wind increased in strength, birdles became harder to find, and the day ended

with Couch in the lead by himself. "I'm not sure I would have believed it,"

Couch said, He was at 12-under 204 and had a one-shot lead over Durant (73) and Charles Howell III, who also played early and shot 66.

Durant made only five pars. He fell four shots behind and into the middle of the pack, picked himself up with three straight birdies, had a gust knock his wedge into the water for bogey, and he finished with a 25foot birdie that left him a good chance to win for the first time in five years.

Dean Wilson (66) and Cameron Beckman (67), both early starters, were at 10-

Masters champion Phil Mickelson shot 68, marred only by a bogey from the bunker on the 17th, and was three shots behind along with six others.

The PGA Tour did not have records of anyone who went from the cudine to the 54-hole lead.

The rally for Couch continued his unusual week, which included getting lost Sunday night trying to find his car, accepting a ride from strangers, getting dropped off in a rough part of rown, and running to find police. Then there were stories that he was robbed and kidnapped.

E-mall: pr_entertalnment@inquirer.com.ph

Pepot Best Actor

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

■ EN-YEAR-OLD Elijah Castillo, an incoming grader at the Espiritu Santo Parochial School in Tayuman, won Best Actor at the 19th Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) which concluded April 29.

Castillo won for his work as a star-struck kid in "Pepot Artista," written and directed by Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. and winner of Best Film in last year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

Castillo, who was in Manila at the time of his unexpected victory, told inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview that not all of his classmates are aware that he's an

"Only a few know about Pepot." In fact, they don't believe me when I tell them I'm an actor," he said. "Maybe now they will."

Castillo was led to acting by his grandmother Mila Estadilla, who has been the wardrobe custodian of Tanghalang Pilipino, resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, for the past 16 years. Mary Grace, Estadilla's daughter and Castillo's mother, also works as a costume mistress and has likewise acted onstage and onscreen. She had a cameo role and shared a scene with her son in

My grandmom asked if I wanted to act and I told her that I'd think about it," Castillo recalled.

He made his debut at age five as Crispin in Bulwagang Gantim-pala's "Kanser." This led to five more plays—"Himala the Musical," "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," "Pag Ibig sa Bayan," "Huling Balasing" and "Macbeth."

By Marinel R. Cruz

tributor.

will handle it."

RON HOWARD'S "THE DA VINCI

Code* will not be given special

treatment by the Movie and Televi-

sion Review and Classification

chief, said the movie will be rated

by the board this week, as it is set

for worldwide release on May 19

Columbia Pictures is the local dis-

movie." Laguardia told inquiter

Entertainment in a phone inter-

view. "We don't see any need to

create a special review commit-

tee. Board members assigned as

reviewers on the day of its rating

Bur she would attend the

Marissa Laguardia, censors



ELIJAH Castillo at the festival

RP wins 2 top awards in Singapore film fest



WITH Del Mundo during the open forum

No special treatment for 'Da Vinci'

though I'm not a member of the

menting rules and regulations,

the committee is composed of at

least three board members, one of

sion is rendered by a majority

vote on the same day that the ma-

terial is reviewed. The producer

or distributor or a representative

screening, and then given a

chance to defend the material, if

Laguardia added, addressing

not just ban it. It will get an 'X' if is "libelous or defamatory to the

groups seeking an "X" rating for

the controversial movie, "We can-

all the factors that require such a

The review committee's deci-

whom is designated as chair.

According to the Board's imple-

review committee."

"We will treat it like any other will be allowed to sit in the

necessary.

screening, Laguardia said, "even rating are present."

Apart from "Pepot," he also starred in a short film, "Kanon," made by students from the University of the Philippines.

A 'natural'

His father, Robert, was proud of the boy's achievement. "We prayed hard for the film. We're very happy that his talent was recognized. It's his first acting award."

According to director Del Mundo, Castillo, who was only nine years old when "Pepot" began shooting, is "a natural."

Castillo recounted that Del Mundo had advised him to be "always alert and behaved on the set,"

The two, plus five other "Pepot" crew members, were in Singapore from April 25 to 27, for the film's screening, which was followed by an open forum, at the Alliance

Française. "Christine Dayrit (Cinema Evaluation Board) helped us find sponsors for the Singapore trip," Del Mundo relayed. "The 200-seater venue was full and the audience was genuinely interested and asked questions during the fo-PEPOTY A2-2

For the movie to be stamped

"X" (not fit for public exhibition),

according to the board's rules and

regulations, it should fail on eight

(and all eight) counts: 1) If it "ap-

peals to prurient interest and sat-

isfies only the craving for gratu-

itous sex or violence"; 2) "depicts

in a patently lewd, offensive or

demeaning manner sexual inter-

course, masturbation and exhibi-

tion of genitals"; 3) "clearly con-

stitutes an attack against any

race, creed or religion"; 4) "con-

dones or encourages the use of il-

legal drugs", S) "undermines the

faith and confidence of people in

government"; 6) "glorifies crimi-

nals or condones crimes"; 7) if it

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0827, Sense of 2006.







ENTERTAINMENT

I remember Chat's triumph

... as though it were my own, as a Filipino. She had glided through the competition with such supreme confidence and charm, that the whole world cheered

By Jose Wendell P. Capili Contributor

HAT SILAYAN CAUGHT MY ATTENTION when she became third runner up in the 1980 Miss Universe.

Some years later, I met her briefly when I was a pre-med student and she had been invited to judge a school-based pageant. I was as usher during that grand event, tasked to lead the judges-including Chat, Dumaguete bred model Matea Leah Tagle and designer Rence Salud-to their appointed seats. Char had smiled as she said thanks. She was truly charming, she was vivacious. I was deurious.

The 1980 Miss U pageant, which was held at the Sejong Cultural Center in Seoul, Korea wasn't shown live on Philippine television. Our Bb. Pilipmas candidates in major pageants abroad had not been doing well but for Melanie Marquez's victory as Miss Inter-pational in Tokyo the year before. There was political and social unrest in the Philippine countryside. Filipino women were beginning to see empowerment beyond domestic chores-and beauty contests.

Still, Chat's 3rd runner up finish made it to the head mes of The Daily Express, The Times Journal, Bultenn Today, Metro Manula Times and The Evening Post. She subsequently landed on the cover of Sunday supplements and women's magazines. When Chat flew back to Manula days later, GMA Channel 7 finally aired the competition program

Many Pilipinos certainly remember how Chat glided through the proceedings. During the swimsuit competition, she conquered Sefong just standing there, hands on her waist. The audience scream "Happy Birthday, Rosanol" after her semi-final interview with host Bob Barker ("The Price is Right")

Then Chat uttered, "Kamsahamnida

(Thank you very much)!" for which she was wildly cheered. And with Renee Salud's skillfully crafted light blue serpenting (a tight fitting terno that flares dramatically from the knees), Chat made her biggest splash in pageant history, scoring heavily in this part of the competition. Descending Sejong's rather steep staircase while being serMISS PHILIPPINES, third from left, in her famous "serpentina" on the night of her biggest triumph. Chat, very likely without knowing it, taught many compatriots how to

proud-anywhere. The winner that year was Miss USA, Shawn Nichols Weatherly, third from right.

enaded by Korea's Little Angels to the tune of "When You Wish Upon a Star," Chat turned even more heads. So impressed were the judges, that Chat's scores climbed even higher. She was just one notch behind eventual winner Shawn Nichols Weatherly of the United States.

Weatherly has been confined to oblivion after the first season of David Hasselhoff's "Baywatch" where she took on a role. But Chat Silayan's spectacular performance at that pageant remains a part of Philippine pop culture history. Today, pageant hopefuls, debutantes, actresses, socialities and other celebrities continue to wear the serpentina to red carpet events. Chat and Renee Salud had truly

Between my studies at Tokyo and Cambridge in the mid 1990s, I received a research

fellowship from the Korean government. Immediately upon arrival at Kimpo Airport, I rushed to Sejong Cultural Center to relive Chat's glorious triumph. I fest pure exhilaration as I kissed the steps, Before after Chat, many Filipino musical artists had performed, and ruled, on this stage-Hajji Alejandro, Ryan Cayabyab, Freddie Aguilar, Snaffu Rigor, Leah Navarro, Nonong Pedero, Something Special, Aniano Montano, Eugene Viliarûz, Louie Reves, Tillie Moreno, Jun Latonio, Celeste Legaspi and Willy Cruz-via the nowdefunct World Popular Song Festival. It felt so rightful to pay homage to those Phinppine

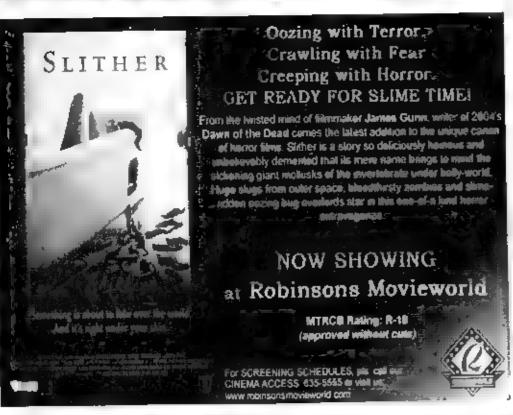
I never got to see Chat again after that brief encounter in college. But some of her friends became my friends, too. In fact, it was Chat's Bb. Pilipinas contemporary, Lampet Luis-Potenciano (Miss Young International 1980 runner-up, now entrepreneur and gifted writer), who relayed to me the sad news of Chat's

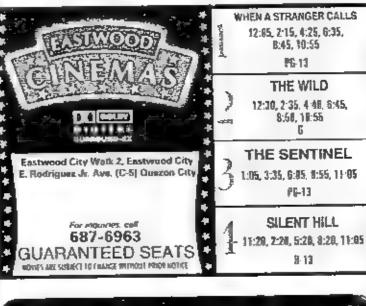
Suddenly, I remembered Chat's impressive debut opposite Fernando Poe Jr. in "Ang Maestro." Soon after making that film, Chat became a co-emcee on "Student Canteen," with Eddie Ilarde and Bobby Ledesma. For a spel., she even got to host her own drama anthology. Then marriage beckoned God and family became her top priorities, and so she chose to tive peacefully away from the klieg lights.

Without her knowing it, Chat has taught me one varuable lesson: That with hard work and determination, Filipinos can be on equal footing with the world's very best in every imaginable stage or arena. I may never become as popular as Chat Silayan. But I know that, like her, I can be an instrument to do God and my country proud.

(The author is an associate professor at the UP College of Arts and Letters and an author with three books and numerous published articles in Europe, East/Southeast Asia, North America and Australia. He graduated from the University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines, the University of Tokyo and the University of Cambridge He has received Palanca, Cultural Center of the Philippines, UST and UP awards; as well as scholarships and fellowships from the British, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Hong Kong, Philippine and Australian governments for creative writing and research. He is currently a PhD Candidate at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National Uni-















'Pepot,'... From page A2-1

It was Castilio's first time to travel abroad, in fact his first time to ride an airplane.

"I was nervous at first," he recalled, "because I had seen many disaster movies?"

He managed to enjoy the rest of the trip, however. "We went on the Night Safari, where we saw wild animals like hyenas, bons and ugers up close. We also visited Sentosa Island and the Dolphin Lagoon."

The group also had a blast shopping. "I bought new shoes," Castillo said.

But if you ask him, the sweetest memento from Singapore is hus Best Actor prize.

"I'll put the trophy in my room, so that I can wake up to it every day," he quipped. It's a nifty birthday gift, too, as he turns 11 next month.

One more Pinoy

Another Filipino won at the SIFE Filmmaker John Torres' "Todo, Todo Teros" ned with Yian Liang's "Taking Pather Home" from China for the NETPAC-FIPRESCI (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema-International Federation of Film Critics) prize.

The Silver Screen Award for Best Film went to Ryuichi Hiroki's "It's Only Talk" (Japan), the Jury Prize, Riri Riza's "Gie" (Indonesia), Best Director, Kelvin Tong for "Love Story" (Hong Kong/Singapore); Best Actress, Hanan Turk for Jocelyn Saab's "Kiss Me Not in the Eyes" (Lebanon).

According to Del Mundo, "it's the first time for the Philippines to have three entries in this festival's main competition."

Apart from "Pepor" and "Todo," Raya Martin's "A Short Film About the Indio Nacional" was also in the running. "There were three Pinoy indie films out of 11 entries. In my book, that's winning," said Del Mundo.

"Actually, it's the first time for SIFF to have three entries from one country," confirmed Philip Cheah, festival director, "Pepor' was pardeniarly well-received, but the critics found all the films interesting. This year's film fest succeeded as a statement that Asian directors want to premiere their films in Asia first."



AGA Muhlach



JOLINA Magdangal



Who wants to feel whatever they felt?



JUDY Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo

ANGELINA Jolie

MANDY Moore

MAGDANGAL JOLINA "Startalk": "We hope everyone who watches this movie ('I Love New York') will feel what all of us-myself, Marvin (Agustin), Mark [Herras] and Jennylyn [Mercado]—felt white shooting it."

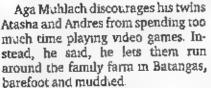
We'd all love to, Jolens, as soon as you tell us exactly what it was.

Only if possible

This is Ryan Agoncillo's idea of the day he weds superstar girlfmend Judy Ann Santos: "It's going to be really private. If possible, we'd turn down any offers for airing rights . If possi-

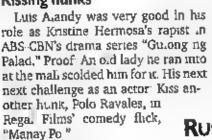
Many couples have found that one an "Ml" (mission impossible), or at least irresistible.

Go barefoot, kids



We'd love to do this, too-have a family farm ... anywhere at all.

Kissing hunks





The cremated remains of Ronald "Uncle Bob" Stewart, founder of GMA 7 Network, were brought to the Kapuso compound in Quezon City for a memorial service led by Felipe Gozon, current president and chief executive officer. Stewart, 87, passed away in Phoenix, Arizona, last month.

"Thank you for remembering me," said Uncle Bob in his last letter to Gozon in 2005, "I am pretty well on my last lap around the track."

Stewart, a war correspondent, founded Republic Broadcasting System (RBS) Channel 7 in October 1961 The urn containing his ashes is now buried in Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Gian Carlos

"Starstruck" finalist Gian Carlos is a nemophiliac.

In the drama show "Magpakailanman," Gian, 23, confessed to having the rare genetic bleeding disorder Hemophelia A, characterized by low



levels or complete absence of a blood protein required for clotting

Gian, member of Final 4 of "Starstruck" Batch 3, said his serious health condition did not stop him from reaching for his dreams.

Tourist draw

Officials in Namibia hope the world med a furor over a visit by pregnant Hollywood star Angelina Jolie and her partner Brad Pitt will translate into a tourist rush to the

African country, famous for its huge sand dunes and vast empty spaces.

Reuters reports Namibian Ambassador to the United States Hopelong lipinge said in a letter released to the media: "If Angelina Jolie gives birth in Namibia, she would have done for our tourism sector what our tourism board budget cannot do in a year."

Defending 'Idols'

Mandy Moore says she is not among those who criticize "American Idol" contestants for wanting instant stardom. In an interview with Associated Press, Moore, 22, said, "They work so hard overcoming ail of these obstacles just to get on the show in the first place, and then every week they're judged in front of all of America. It must be overwhelming, all the pressure. I give them complete credit for getting up on stage. I would crumble under that kind of pressure."

Funniest woman

Ellen Degeneres won best task show host for the second straight year at the Daytime Emmy awards AP reported from Los Angeles. "This means a lot to me," she said Friday night from the Kodak Theater stage before telling her partner, actress Porna de Rossi, "I love you."

Lost and drunk

In Honofulu, AP also reported, "Lost" star M.chelle Rodriguez surrendered to authorities to begin a five-day jail sentence for drunken driving. Rodriguez, 27, who portrays police officer Ana Lucia in the series, opted for jail time and a \$500 fine rather than 240 hours of community service.

Willis' new love

Czech super model Petra Nentcova, who survived the 2004 Asian tsunami disaster, has lined up US film star Bruce Willis for her latest charity project-a book of photos of celebrities-she told Agence France Presse at the launch of her "Love Always Petra" book. But the Hollywood star that US gossip columns have described as infatuated with the Czech model and "Sports Illustrated" cover girl, is just "a good friend," Nemcova



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"I can't just stand still wi plained. "Bending helps me h my lungs expand."

By Bayani San Diego Jr. Photos by Romy Hamillada
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PART

ASIA'S QUEEN OF queen of all media. Pi 'ir "Pilita" Corrates is a iv ness to the glory days of rad:

First stop for the Spanish b teener she was among the auateur Hour" in Cebu. "My n was a manager for Coca Com After a year in a finishin Spann, a teen-aged Pilita retur father lose Corrales had died It was a trying time for the

mom moved the family to Manila because there were: too many sad memories m Cebu," she recalled.

In Manila, Pilita began her local show biz career ás

a crooning-and guitarstrumming disc jockey on dzPI's "La Taverna." "IÇ was

an all-Spanish show,"- Jshe-

said. "I hosted it for a year and

she caught the eye of rad

personality Eddie Harde an

Casimiro. "They persuaded n

to sing at the Manila Grand Ot

Later, she also signed up will

Her first talent fee P50 a w-

"I learned to speak Tagaloy

In Clover, she performed v

Even back in Clover, she w

for her "brokeback" singing sh

and the Wing Duo (Nikk, Rosy who would later become her o

they turned me into a come:

crooked Tagalog!"

While manning the booth

performer - Bayar

terewish n

a haif."

She was the lead star of Wawaw." She appeared in fi. well as in "shing-a-ing" mus boa and Visayan flicks with Gi-

"I only guested in Sampag "But I recorded an a.bum theme songs."

When it comes to the music

the record to beat. "Ay, 'susmarya," she qui

around 135 albums!"

Her first albums were recu released abroad. "I made the in Hong Kong ("Pilita Live a. t Vols. 1 to 3"), two in Australia. in Japan. I sang in Japan though I didn't speak a Niponggo. But it was easy to cause my producers wrote o Japanese syrics syslable by sy was like Spanish. I only had to

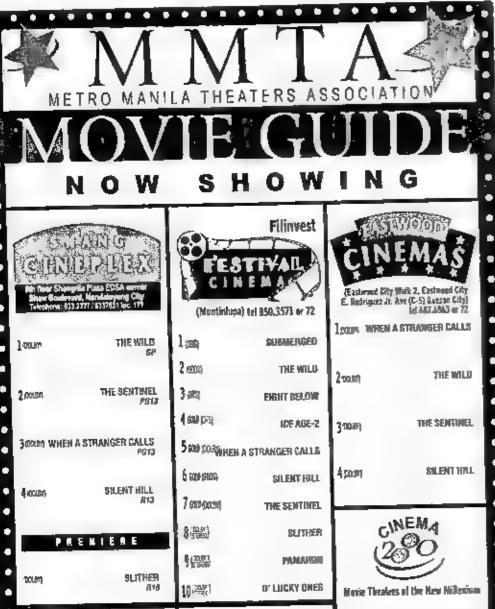
The Japanese album was "Puita in Tokyo", the Aust burns, "Pilita with Arthur You Teas the Story of Love," "I" mance and "This is Pilita wer Records.

She became so famous in a that a street was named l'ile; village in Meibourne, where t ed in the rate 1950s and curly

She holds the distinct on eigner to hit the Austriann song "Acer ca te mas (Come Ca



WITH husband Carlos Lopez



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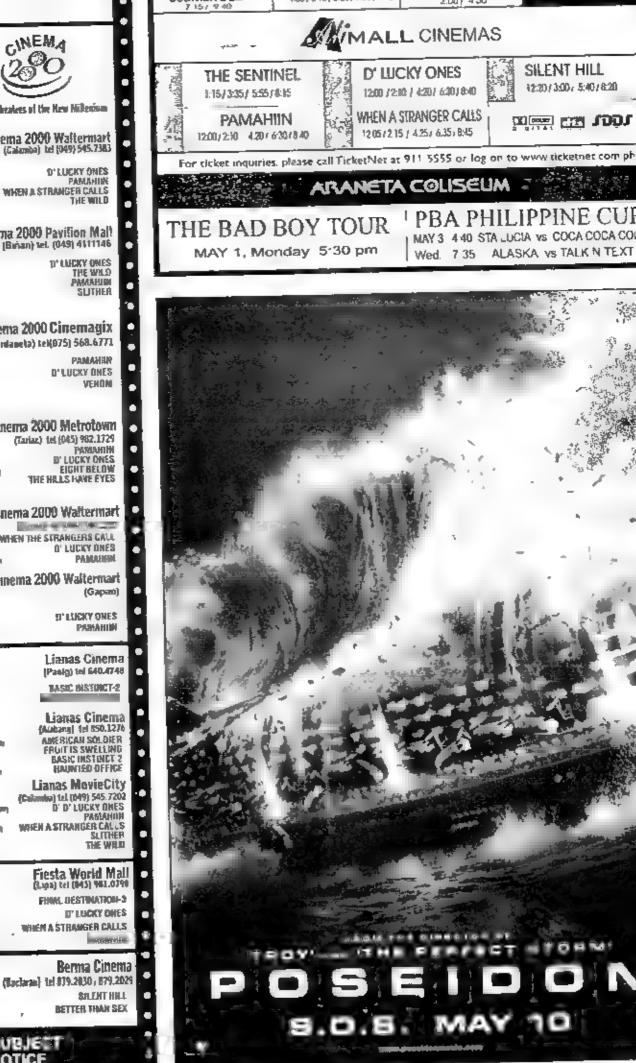
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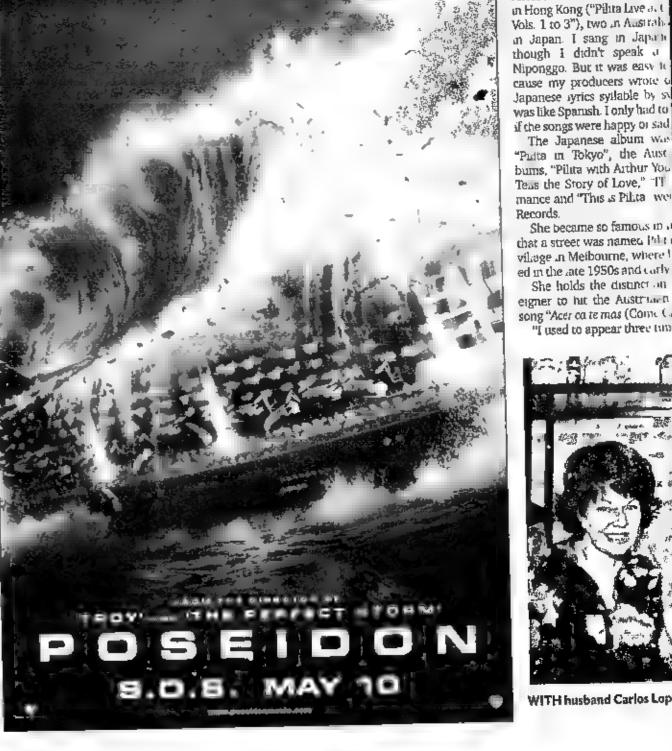
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PAMAHBI

THE WILD







MAMITA with her TV "sons" (from left) Raymart Santiago, Benjie Paras, joey Marquez and Richard Gomez on GMA 7's "Lagot Ka... Isusumbong



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prime time program called 'In Melbourne Tonight, with the Wing Duo."

Even then, fabulous sequined wardrobe was La Pil.ta's trademark style "The audience always looked forward to the costumes that were sewn by my mom. Gowns were so expensive in Australia "

By 1964, Pilita had relocated back to Manila. Months later, she made television history as the star of ABS-CBN's "An Evening With Pilita," a multiawarded musical-variety show, a Thursday night top-rater that ran

from 1965 to 1972. With the late comedian Bert "Tawa" Marcelo, she hosted the amateur singing contest 'Ang Bagong Kampeon" in the 1980s.

Her signature song and first local recording under Mareco/Villar, Ancia Gamilla's "A Milion Thanks to You," was the theme song of "An Evening." The highconcept show featured the Wing Duo as regulars and Mitos Villareal as director, "Our director M tos sang with the Wing Duo, they

were called Lemons Three. We had a great band and the best musical directors like Emil Mijares and Doming Valdez."

It was on "An Evening" that an OPM classic made its debut. "I sang 'Kapantay ay Langit' for the first time there, but it was in English, and it was entitled 'You're All I Love.' George was my guest composer

Canseco was partly responsible for her title, Asia's Queen of Song

"The Phaippines had joined the Tokyo Music Pesrival for the first time in 1970. Linterpreted George's

composition, 'My Daughter,' and won Best Singer," she recounted. Among those who competed was Olivia Newton-John.

By the time she got back in Manila, entertainment journalist Joe Quirino had coined the title Asia's Queen of Song for her.

Queen Pilita reigned not only in Asia and Austrana, but also in Las Vegas and New York-having done shows at the Caesar's Palace and Carnegie

Sammy Davis Jr. himself brought Pilita to Las Vegas in the late 1970s.

"I was the front act for his shows at the Manila Hotel and Folk Arts Theater," she related. "Sammy promised he'd take me to Vegas."

At first, she thought it was just idle backstage chatter. "But he made good his promise and I worked with him for three weeks there. I've per formed with many foreign artists, but Sammy was different. He was such a confident total performer He even introduced me as the star of the show."

She headlined Carnegie thrice. "The first time was solo; then, with Basil Valdez and Ivy Violan, and the last time, with The Reycard Duet."

Nowadays, Pilita's vagabond shoes, as the song goes, are still "longing to stray."

If she's not cracking jokes on the GMA 7 sitcom "Lagot Ka. Isusumbong Kita," she's doing concerts

A performer's life, she attested, is spent mostly on the road. However, she has plenty of reasons to stay home these days.

With husband Cartos Lopez, she put up Pilita's restaurant/music bar beside Greenhills Theater. "It was formerly called Kooka Bar," she said, "but we now have our own concept."

It's a mini-shrine, commemorating Pulta's remarkable five-decade career Old albums and pictures are displayed on the walls and 45 RPM records have been turned into napkin holders.

"This is where my family and friends come to unwind," she explained. "When I don't have work, I'm asually here, singing, charting and jamming with friends like Nikki, Germs, Ivy, Dulce. My daughter Jacquilou Bianco and son Ramon Christopher Gunerrez and their children often drop by."

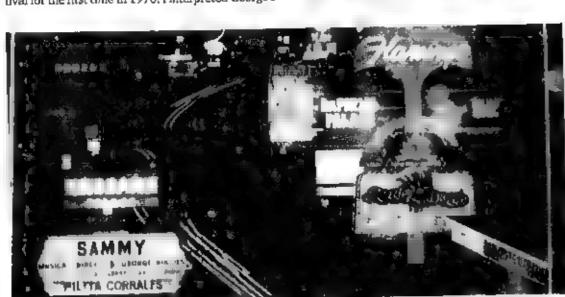
At Pilita's bar, Asia's Queen of Song is also the queen of the clan.



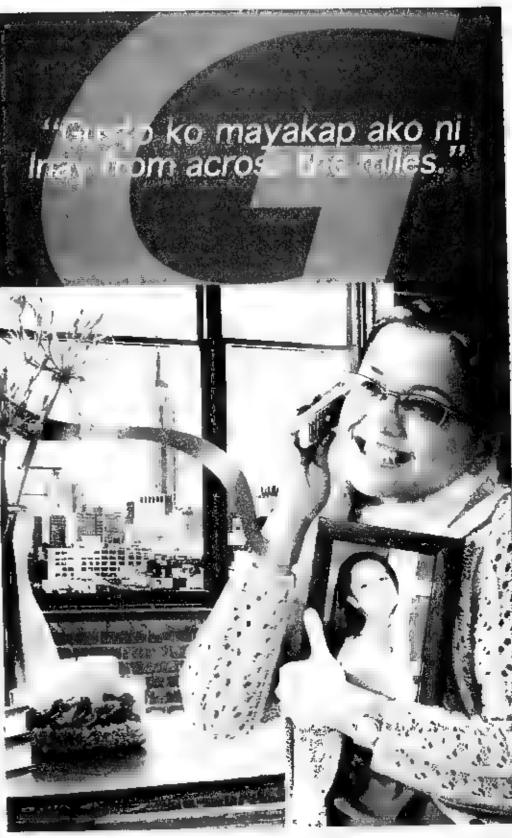
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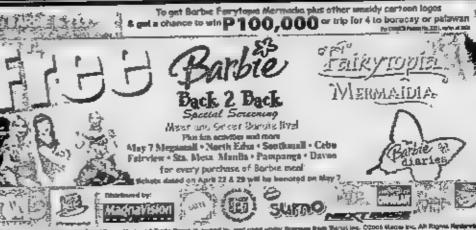


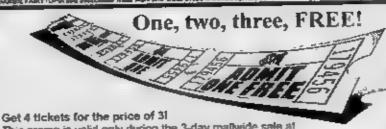
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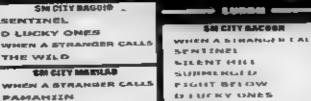
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

PAMAHIIN

Jil Johnson, a young high school student who worked pert-time as a bebysitter thought it's just going to be a quiet evening. Not until she answers a call from a mysterious person, who keeps on asking her, "Heve you checked the chitren?" When the children are suddenly nowehere to be found, Jid gets more nervous when she realizes that the caller is also in the same house.

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AUDREY Tautou

No special treatment for 'Da Vinci'

From page A2-1

good name and reputation of any person, whether living or dead"; and 8) if it "constitutes contempt of court or pertains to matters that are sub-judice in nature."

The MTRCB announcement came in the wake of a call from an antipornography group for the banning of the film. based on the bestselling book by Dan Brown.

The Philippine Alliance Against Pornography Inc. called "The Da Vinci Code" the "most pornographic and blasphemous film in history." The showing of the film, said PAAP spokesperson Also Filomeno, will "(cause a) break in the Christian faith around the world."

The group also called on the National Bureau of Investigation, Philip pine National Police and Bureau of Customs to seize and destroy all of Dan Brown's books in local bookstores and declare the novelist a persona non gra-

"The PAAP has always been a conservative group, I expected them to react the way they did," said Laguardia. "But we will stand by any decision the board makes."

"The Da Vinci Code" argues the divinity of Jesus Christ. It claims, among other things, that the Holy Grail is not a physical chalice, but Mary Magdalene, who allegedly carried Jesus' bloodline. "The Board needs

to watch the movie in its entirety to determine if there really is an attack on Catholic Church," Laguardia stressed. "We are also considering the possibility that the film's director has a different take on the story, compared to the novelist's."



"DA VINCI CODE"

ENTERTAINMENT



THE FINAL SIX: Like brothers and sisters

I'm sorry

INQUIRER

Kellie Pickler is sent packing

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

HER LUCK RAN OUT.

On Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), "American Idol" finalist Kellie Pickler took her last bow on the show.

Right after host Ryan Seacrest announced the results, we could almost hear the 19-year-old bionde say, "I'm sorry." as she had invariably done whenever she falled to impress the

Famous for her "calamari" bit on one of the pre-performance videos, Kelhe won the hearts of millions of Americans for her bubbly personality. Thanks to viewer-voting, she lasted in the compention long after critics thought she should have left.

Kellie said she saw it coming.

"I deserved to be booted out this week," said Kellie in an exclusive interview (courtesy of StarWorld), saying that her performances these past two weeks had been below par.

On Tuesday night, the judges cut up her "robonc" rendition of "Unchained Me.ody."

Paula Abdul, usually the sympa thetic one, told her, "I don't see you raising the bar each week. At this point it's about greamess, and I don't [get that from] you "

The ever cheerful Kellie pointed out, though, "Making it to Top 6 is not too shabby, isn't it?"

*She said she was sad to leave the show, but at the same time eager to see what doors would open for her.

Arready there's good news. Kellie said that her father, who is serving time in a Florida jail, may be getting out soon. "In spite of everything that my dad and I have been through, I love him," she said

As for her mom, the young lady from North Carolina says she's ready to forgive: "I think for so long, I had so many hard feelings for her. I think at this point .. I have forgiven her."

The mother left before Kellie could even recognize her. Though she probably wouldn't know her mom if she saw her right now, Kelhe said, ")' sometimes wonder

what she thinks of me ... I don't know if she watches the show."

Some people say that your banter with the judges and with Ryan seems to be calculated rather than spontaneous. What do you have to say to that?

People are going to believe what they wanna believe. I've been real from the beginning, honest with my life and who I am. I don't have anything to hide or he about.

Would you consider an acting career?

I would love to be on TV and film, I was actually in high school plays.

Do you regret any of your song choices?

No, I regret performances that I could have done better. But I can't change anything .I want to live for the future, not the past.

Who will you miss the

"l.can't say ... I know I'm gonna miss them all so much-not only the contestants. I'm really gonna miss all the PAs (production assistants) and crew.

A con Settle .

KELLIE Pickler: Nothing to hide.

'I don't regret any of my song choices. I regret performances that I could have done better. But I can't do anything about that now. I want to live for the future, instead of the past'

What was the hardest aspect of being on 'Idol'?

The hardest thing for me is not bemg able to catch up on sleep. Also, how some people can be very critical-it's probably the hardest thing in the entertainment world. I think that a lot of times people forget that we are human, too, and that we have feelings, and sometimes we get hurt.

How do you think the show has changed you?

I wouldn't say the show has changed me because I still feel like the same Kellie Pickler that I was when I first stepped into the audition. Although I feel like I've grown as a person and become more confident.

Would you do another reality show?

Yes, I would. It's fun because it's so easy to just be yourself. So as long as the reality show is really a reality show and not scripted, then I would

Who do you think is gonna win this

You know what, I have no idea. It doesn't matter if you've never been in the bottom three. It doesn't matter if you have the most votes one week and the next. It's all about consistency. I think the top five this year is the best that the show has ever had

How did you feel the next day when you woke up and realized you were no longer on "Idol"?

Happy. After the show we had a little dinner, kında like a toast dinner. We just talked about good times. I'm happy for the people who are still on the show. We really love each other. I went into this as a noncompetitor. I was just trying to have some fun. I'm gonna miss all these guys.

There are rumors on the Internet ... that you're dating Constantine Maroulis and/or Ace Young. Is there any truth to either of these?

sisters.

So I date Ace now (laughs)? Constantine is a great guy. Ace is a great guy, too. But, in all honesty, no contestant is dating another contestant. It's kinda like gross because we're like brothers and

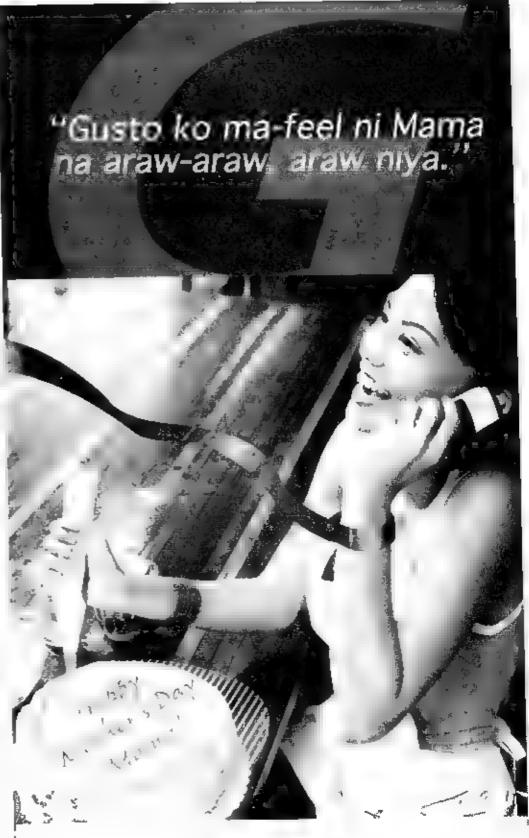
> Can you talk about some things written about you that have hurt you the most?

I think it's those that say I don't deserve to be here. There are even cases when I felt I'd really been made fun of It's hard because you feel very excited that you're like, 'Wow! I'm in a magazine.' Then you read it and it's really bad. Those things hurt ... a little

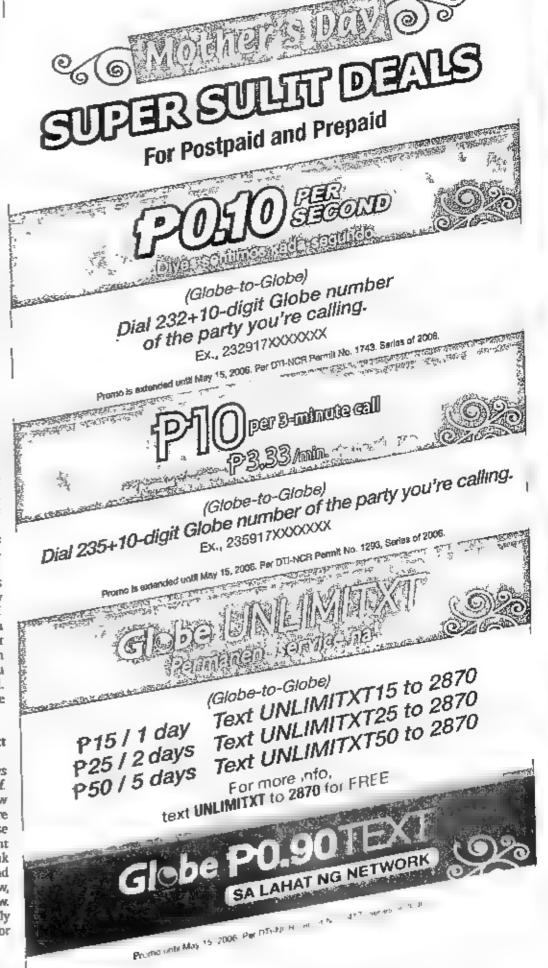
What are your plans next week?

I'm booked for interviews for like a week and a half. They're flying me to New York Sunday. And you're gonna see me on all these shows that I never thought I would ever be on. I think I'm doing Jay Leno and Ellen Degeneres' show, which is my favorite show. They've got me really busy for the next week or

(Catch "American Idol" on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. direct satellite, 8 p.m. primetime and 11:30 p.m. replay.)



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Nick Block airs twice a day-6 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. - Mondays through Fridays. That's right, Nickelodeon—the world's most widely distributed kiddle channel, is now on free TV.

Said Christopher James, senior 🛝 vice president and general manager of MTV Networks Asia: "We put kids first in everything we do. All our programs are safe, respectful, fun and imaginative in addition to being kidstested and kids-approved. Parents need not worry because we've done all the wor-rying for them. We are delighted to be reaching 16 million more households in Philippines in this partnership with ABC-

Nickelodeon Asia is seen in more than 293,224,223 households throughout the losophy."

CRAMMED WITH KIDDIE FAVORITES LIKE region with 24-hour channels and pro-"Spongbob SquarePants," "Blue's Chies" and gramming blocks. Territories include Bangladesh, Brunel, China, Fiji, Hong gramming blocks. Territories include Bangladesh, Brunel, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lan-ka, South Korea, Taiwan and Thai-

> ABC 5 has always positioned it-self as a proponent of child-friendly content. SVP for Corporate Affairs Terra Daffon, noted the fact that the network has consistently garnered the most number of Anak TV Seals, awarded annually by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Televi-

Daffon explained, "That's because we mostly chose children's programs that teach and mold in a fun way, which comcides with Nickelodeon's 'play to learn' phi-



MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006

TELEBABAD



BACO MAG-JEWEL IN THE PALACE SA

ENTERTAI

Blemishes?



OS ANGELES—HERE'S ONE sure way to incite Barbra Streisand's wrath: Write a book about her.

Christopher Anderson has learned that with his recently published biography, "Barbra: The Way She Is." Stressand has retaliated not with interviews or public statements, but by way of the Internet. On her website, she has issued a response she titles "Does the Truth Matter These Days?"

"Normally, I would not dignify vicious, mean-spirited mythology masquerading as biography," she begins. "But it seems this latest rehash of other unauthorized biographies is getting a lot of attention. Who is the person described in this book? This stereotypic image bears little resemblance to me or anything about me."

Streisand adds that none of her close friends or professional co-workers had been sources for the book. Indeed, her intimates, co-stars and major directors are missing from the author's account of con-

tributors. "A few of them spoke off the record," Anderson responded, talking from his Connecticut home "Karl Malden and Estelle Parsons offered interesting insights, as did people who worked with her-singers, musicians, composers."

Streisand branded as "a lie" the book's allegation that she refused to attend her sister's wedding even though she was in the same city. "I was in London filming Yentl," she declared.

One small detail

The website also includes a letter from her sister Roslyn's ex-husband, Randy Stone, who said that Streisand provided her Malibu ranch for the wedding and gave the couple "a large gift of money" to start their married life

Anderson remarked that the criticism concerned "one small detail"

"Barbra: The Way She Is" adds to the stream of unauthorized biographies about Streisand. In his list of sources, Anderson includes 27 biographies and other books

relating to Streisand His book hit No. 15 on The New York Times list of best sellers on April 16. "That was after only four days on the market," says Anderson's public relations represen-

tative, Camille McDuffie. Anderson has been a prolific biographer of celebrities. His 13 previous books include such titles as "American Evita: Hilary Chnton's Path to Power," "Sweet Carohne: Last Child of Camelot," "George and Laura: Portrait of an American Marriage" and "Citzen Jane "

The author, who devoted two years to the Stressand book, said he wasn't surprised by her reaction. "She made a statement years ago, 'If God wrote my biography, I wouldn't like it. I'd like people to know that I am a fan of Barbra's," he said. "The first gift I gave my wife when we were students at UC Berkeley in the 1960s was the soundtrack album of 'Funny Girl."

50 Cent's worth

He usually saves his beefs for other rappers; this time, 50 Cent is going after Oprah Winfrey

In an interview with The Associated Press, 50 complained that Winfrey rarely invites rappers on her talk show: "I think

she caters to older white women." "Oprah's audience is my audience's parents," the 29-year-old rapper said. "So, I

could care less about Oprah or her show." He's not alone in his resentment toward the talk show host cum media mogul.

Rapper-actor Ludaeris, a.k.a. Chris Bridges, said in the May issue of GQ magazine that Winfrey was "unfair" during a show he appeared on last October with costars from best-picture Oscar winner "Crash "

"She edited out a lot of my comments while keeping her own in," he said. "Of course, it's her show, but we were doing a show on racial discrimination, and she gave me a hard time as a rapper, when I came on there as an actor."

Winfrey's representative at her production company, Harpo, told the AP that Winfrey was unavailable for comment.

But, as 50 Cent sa.d, Winfrey's purported disapproval might enhance a rap star's street cred. "I'm actually better off having friction

with her," he said The crack-dealer-turned-rapper has sold millions of records gleefully flaunting his gangsta image, explicit lyrics and bulletproof vest (he was famously shot nine times). He has his own record label, G-Unit, the G-Unit clothing line, his own sneaker line with Reebok and a videogame, "Bulletproof." Bob Thomas and Erin Carl-

son, AP

BARBRA Streisand



Streisand chides biographer; 50 Cent goes after Oprah



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BY JESS ABRERA

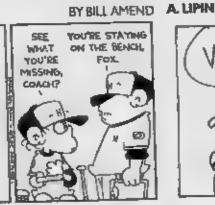
ينسون، فالتسرميد

COMICRelief











MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG MOM IS TOTALLY INTOLERANT OF THOSE WHO POINT OF VIEW

PUGAD BABOY



MAY FERA NGA SILA PARA BUMILI NG MGA PINAKAMAHAL NA MAY PERA NGA SILA PARA KUMAIN SA MGA PINAKAMAHAL NA PALLAY PERO NAS MADA
LAS SILANS TUMIRA SA
TRAILER SA SET NO
PELIKULANG
GINAGANA NILA RESTORAN PERO AND PAIFOE LANG NILANG ORDER IN E TATIONS STICK NG CELERY DONIL WIND! SILA PWEDENG TUMABA

BY PM. JUNIOR NAG ARTISTA AND? OD NGA AT DREAM DO TO RIN TONG WASING SARHENTO SAAIR

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

BABY BLUES



we are about to began EXPLORING THE OUTER PEACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!

BY JERRY SCOTT HOPE THAT THING WASN'T VERY YES, OUR JUST EXPENSIVE. JOINE WORK SYSTEM SY ANOTHER NAME,

MUTTS



KNOW ыск A LOT OF TRICKS



YOU WON'T SEE A RICH MAN

BECAUSE THE DEATH ROW IS

INSIDE THE DEATH ROW

POOR MAN'S PRISON."

ATOMO AND WEBOY



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You have high ideals about relationships. It might take a while to find true love. You're practical and astute. You like variety and change. Many of you are creative and musical. You're interested in philosophical subjects. Around the age of 50, you want to share your life deeply, emotionally with someone. Big changes are in the wind in this year! Birthdate of: Tire McGraw, singer, Rita Coolidge, singer; Glenn Ford, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Home, family and domestic matters have your attention to-Discussions with e significant. the time to listen to relatives and you don't have. (Groan.) people you live with.



on top of your bank account. Keep track of bills today. Figure out how much money CANCER (June 21 to

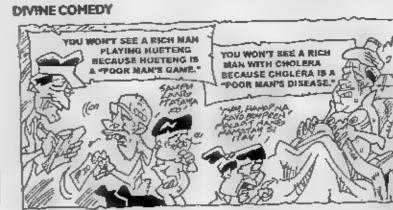
GEMINI (May 21 to

June 20). Attend to

banking needs and stay

is your time to make things go your way. You have an edge over every-

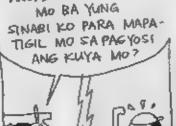
BY LYRA GARCELLANO



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MIKROKOSMOS ANO, BUNSOY, GINAMA

BEN





BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

PERD MUKHANG MALALAGOT AKO SA BUGBOG NIYA ÞAHL NAKITA NA NIYANG BASA ANG MGA YOSI NIYA!

others

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a busy day! You're involved with errands, short trips discussions with siblings and relatives.

Business negonations can go well. Make a point of being friendly with

July 22). Today's Moon is in your sign. It will there until late Wednesday, Wheel This

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Discussions listen. Alternatively, be ready to confide in someone.

You can't be all things to all people

all the time. Take a mental-health

22)



with a friend, perhaps a female friend, are significant today. Be ready to

LEO (July 23 to Aug.

alone roday, if you can

squeeze this into your

schedule. You need rest.

You need time



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Whatever you do today, there's a good likelihood that people

reason. Therefore, dress accordingly, Look your best. You're in the firme-light!



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Try to do Nov. 21) something different and out of the ordinary today. You seek adventure.

You want to learn more. You want to avoid routine and boring, humdrum repetition.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Talk about shared property, insurance matters, estates and the responsibilities you have for others.

Someone might help you with these issues.



5/1/06

Saturday's Puzzia Solved

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You will have to go more than halfway in important discussions with partners and close friends

today. That's because the Moon is directly opposite your sign. Nevertheless, you can reach an agreement.



AQUARTUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This week starts off with your desire to get more organized at work. You also want to get organized at home. You want to be productive, efficient and effective in everything you do. Yol



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Navel engineer 7 Angel's prop 11 CPR specialist

14 Imbue with solutual **AWareness** 15 Banned spray

16 Old card game 17 Alming high 20 Fla. neighbor 21 Compere

22 Ecuador's capital 23 Pesky Insect

24 Group of GIS 25 Very rare event 33 English Channel port

34 Asian sea 36 __ Antonio, TX 36 Cries of discovery 37 More immorali

39 Await action 40 Go bad 41 Shankar of the

skar 42 Eagle's ped 43 Zwieback, e.g. 47 Keats offering By Barry Ste

McLean, VA

9 Fan noise

11 The Time

13 Uproar

25 Eyeball-

bending

pictures

27 Raccoon

COUST

surgery

31 Pession

32 Wound up

37 Yankee Ruth

38 Ms. Gardner

39 Bardor's dad

41 Lancastor's

48 Spoonful of medicine **A9** Extrapolatin 52 Toshibe rival

54 Actor Mineo 57 Hot sports ticket 60 Wolfed down

61 Thick piece 62 Smoothed 63 General Mills

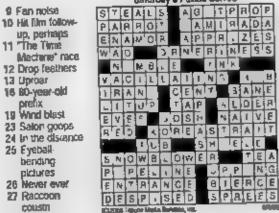
64 To be, in Toulon 65 Sister of Venus

DOWN 1 Nuntendo raral

2 Hydroxyl compound 3 Europe's neighbor

4 Nice good? 5 Wife of Napoleon III **B** Actress Jenna

7 Fabled dawdler 8 Der ___ (Acienauer)



28 Corrective eye 29 Hot temper 42 Perdon 30 Grenoble's department

44 Vassar, since 1969

mel

45 Miley of poetry 48 Antiur Conen end others 49 Author Dinesen 50 Don't took at

51 Bend 52 Centain terrider

53 French priest 54 Reasonable 55 Revival shout 56 Swan lady 58 Most remote, briefly

59 Aus. neighbor

PISCRS (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today's Moon is in Cancer, which is your fellow Wa-ter Sign. This bodes well for you. Much of this week is playful, romantic and creative)

MAKADAPA UNA ULD!







LOVEKNOTS

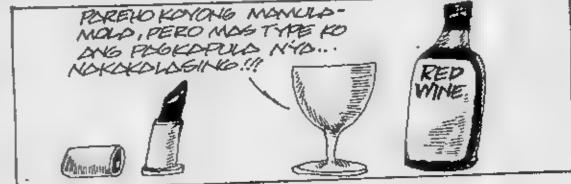
JOWA, LABOR DAY

NGAYON!



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



'Idol' survivors down to five

LAST WEDNESDAY, THE SIX REMAINING survivors of "American Idol" did their best to measure up to the daunting demands of famous love songs made popular by some of the music world's finest talents. Alas, they d.dn't have an easy time of it.

As far as the studio auchence was concerned, Katharine McPhee brought the house down with the evening's first musical performance, but the jurors generally poohpoohed her best effort, saying it didn't match the original singer's (Whitney Houston's) achievement Gee, thanks.

Eliott Yanin fared better, but Kelly Pickler stumbled badly with her cautious, listless performance.

Paris Bennett turned in "the evening's best female vocal," according to a judge, but heretofore consistent favorite Taylor Hicks

lost his luster. Pluckily enough, Chris Daughtry turned in the best performance, thus enabung the trouble round to and on a relative high.

But, make no mistake about it, the tilt's surviving finalists are feeling the squeeze and the heat. That's par for the course as the mostwatched talent competition in the world hurtles to its "fina.-final" phase. And some of the tilt's best bets are waffling

What's the problem? With the stakes now so high, they're trying very hard not to make mistakes—and that's turning out to be a—a

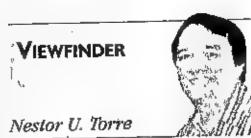
So, what's a finalist to do? If you go by the Feedback jurors' comments, they should forger that they have so much riding on surviving the tilt, and simply keep giving in the performances of their lives

That isn't the easiest thing in the world to put, off, however, which is why former pacesetters Kelly and Taylor were hurting.

When push came to shove last Thursday, however, Taylor had a new lease on nfe, and it was Kelly Pickler who bit the dust.

That was just as snocking as Ace Young's ouster the week before. After all, some people had predicted that Kelly would reprise fellow folk singer Carrie Underwood's victory last year. Alas, it was not meant to be.

What's up for Kelly, now that she's the 2006 "Al's" latest dropout? Is everything over for her? Not likely Look at Ace-he's no longer in the finals, but only a few days after his defeat, he was on the "Today" show and on Ellen Degevere's talk show



That means the public and show producers are still interested in him, so his star could still rise despite his loss. The same could happen to Kelly, if she and her mentors play their cards right.

Now that the "AI" survivors have been trimmed down to five---Katharine, Chris, Taylor, Paris and Eliott, the tilt's stress level can only go even higher. In different ways, most of the five remaining finalists are deserving of victory in terms of talent, so the final decision is likely to be really close, and could depend on the prospective winner's grit and charisma, above all else

Last Thursday, the top scorers were Chris and Katharine. Does that mean that the two of them will square off on the competition's final night? Not if Taylor, Eliott and Paris can help it, of course-but the signs are there for anyone to interpret, depending on his own

From Maloli K. Espinosa, ABS-CBN's VP for government, corporate affairs and public relations. "Thank you for your feedback on "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition." Comments from highly respected columnists like yourself are valued by the network as this gives us feedback on how best to improve our pro-

"We certainly agree that the batch of 'PBB' participants needs extra attention since it is comprised of teenagers. Please be assured that they have undergone and passed a senes of exams that showed they are capable of handling the tasks inside the 'PBB' house.

"We would also like to inform you that, since we launched the first season of 'PBB,' we have we have employed the services of Dr. Randy Dellosa [as] resident psychiatrist who overseas the psychological weilbeing of the housemates. We hope you will continue giving us constructive insights about our show."



JARED Padelecki and Jensen Ackles as Sam and Dean Winchester.

Tel. Not 8981440-41 Rockwell Center, Makari City WHEN A STRANGER CALLS **EIGHT BELOW GP** 12:00,2:00,4:00. 6:00,8:00.10:00 GP 2:20.4.40,7:05,9:30 2:00,4 00.6:00. THESENTINEL SLITHER SILENT HILL R18 12 10,2 10,4 10, R13 11:50,2:30,5:10 1 10,3 30,5:50, MONES AND SCREENING SCHERLES SURVECT TO CHANCE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE FOR VEHICLATION EAL HIM MATTIMES POINT, NO - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS REFORE 5:00 PM - MON, TO FRU



3 most popular shows in US are Fox network productions

three most popular programs on US television last week as broadcasters took a breath before the start of May ratings sweeps and the season's conclusion.

push, many of the most popular series were in was last year. ABC is the only network up in reruns last week.

The two most popular shows, the week's two editions of "American Idol." Coming in third was the medical drama "House," which has grown nicely for the network this spring.

For the ninth straight week, Fox won among the 18 to-49-year-old demographto-a record for the network. It moved into a virtual tie with ABC for the season lead in that demo, which Fox won for the first time ever last season.

Fox will crown a new "American Idol" in of the nation's esti-May, sure to be a ratings winner But ABC will compete hard, too, with an Oprah Winfrey special on 25 celebrated black women and season finales of "Grey's Anatomy," "Desper-

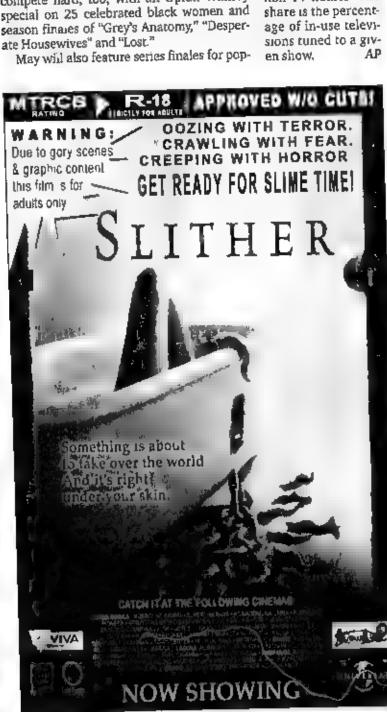
NEW YORK-THE FOX NETWORK HAD THE ular series like "The West Wing," "Will & Grace," "7th Heaven," "A.ias," "That '70s Show" and "Malcolm in the Middle."

CBS is likely to finish the season as the ratings champ among all viewers, although its In anticipation of the upcoming ratings lead over second-place ABC is not as wide as it viewers over last year, NBC appears doomed to repeat its fourth-place showing in both viewers and the young demo.

CBS averaged 11.9 million viewers for the week (7.8 rating, 13 share). Fox had 9.8 million viewers (6.1, 10), ABC 7.9 million (5.3, 9), NBC 7 1 million (4.7, 8)

A ratings point

represents 1,102,000 house holds, or 1 percent mated 110.2 milhon TV homes The en show.





For TV series connoisseurs

PREMIERING THURSDAY, 10 PM, ON AXN IS "Supernatural," a compelang new series from the creator of "Buffy The Vampure Slayer," "Sma.lville" and "Charmed."

"Supernatural" is a gripping journey through the world of things beyond explana-

Jared Padeiecki ("Gilmore Girls") as Sam Winchester turns his back on a bright future as a lawyer to join his older brother Dean (Jensen Ackles, "Smallville") in a search for their father John (Jeffrey Dean Morgan, "Weeds")

John has spent his life hunting down the forces that had killed his wife. Crisscrossing the lonely back roads of the country in a '67 Chevy Impala, the brothers try to track him, running into supernatural evil along the way.

Following the pilot episode ("White Lady"), "Supernatural" airs Thursdays at 10

Warner Bros. Television presents the series in association with Wonderland Sound and Vision. Writers/executive producers are Enc Kripke ("Boogeyman") and Robert Singer ("Midnight Caller")



ENTERTAINMENT

Tame, tension-free

trekking

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit Contributor

O, YOU'RE NOT NOT seeing double. There are obvious similarities between Disney's new computer-animated feature "The Wild" and last year's "Madagascar" from Dreamworks. The concept and story details are uncannily alike, centering on domesticated zoo animals that leave their city homes, journey through the urban jungle, and end up trying to survive an actual, faraway one. But similarities or coincidences aside, "The Wild" is still hardly original, as it is also reminiscent of "Finding Nemo" and, in some re-

spects, "The Lion King." It has

good animation going for it, which may keep kids from minding that it's actually quite dull, narrative-wise.

We see a rehash of the old problematic parent-child dynamic through lion characters Samson (voiced by Kiefer Sutherland) and Ryan (Greg Cipes), where the young one feels insecure of his father's supposed accomplishments. When Ryan acciden-

tally gets shipped off to parts REVIEW unknown, Samson and his zoo posse embark on a daring rescue mission that could change their lives forever. This roster of odd animal characters includes dumb snake Larry (Richard Kind), grumpy koala Nigel (Eddie Izzard), kleptomaniae squirrel Benny (Jim Belushi), and image-conscious gitaffe

Bridget (Janeanne Garofalo) Each of them can be annoying and unbelievably bland, though. There are times that you just unconsciously tune them out and watch how cool the designs are, how detailed the animation.

tic stuffed toys, stylized enough so that they show imagination, but still possessing a tangible quality to their cuddly forms. The visuals have eye candy moments, among them the special effects used on the chameleon characters' colorchanging abilities.

Beyond that, the story unfurls without rary music. memorable spectacle. After some eye-

Most of the animals look like semi-realis rolling buckerings, a little totlet humor reasons, but the young ones can get disand a strange joke about Canada's "lax immigration policy," "The Wild" is pretty tame. The use of pop music makes it a little hip, as songs by bands Coldplay and Lifehouse flavor certain parts perfectly. But it's nowhere near the hip ness of the "Shrek" movies' use of mostly contempo-

Adults can get bored for different

tracted, mainly because of the engaging, colorful and lively imagery. The lessons here are recycled and nothing that the older, better animated features sneakily and cleverly taught children before. But the obvious ones are still there, if imparted formulaically, giving some meaning to this drawn-out, dejà vu safarı adventure.

Pay taxes, Abba Bjorn told

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN-The Swedish tax authority is decision made in December demanding nearly 87 million kronor (\$11.6 million) in back taxes, fees and interest rates from former ABBA member Bjorn Ulvaeus on royalnes sonal income from the group's hits that it says he should have included in his tax returns.

According to the Swedish tax agency, Ulvaeus signed a series of SPIN CITY contracts] are really contracts before moving to England in 1984. The contracts were meant to hand over the rights to his royalties from ABBA songs and the musical "Chess" to different companies.

But the agency claimed in a that the deals were sham contracts and that Ulvaeus still had access to the money and should include them as his per-

"This has just been a construction to avoid taxes," agenspokesperson Jan Erik Backman said "The meaning [behind the something' different than what the official papers say."

The ruling will be appealed, Ulvaeus lawyer Sven Rygaard said, adding, "I'm pretty sure we will win this."

Big Brother lowers the bar

By Paul Daza Contributor

THE 12 TEENAGERS SELECTED FOR "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition" ("PBBTE") are a telegenic, combustible bunch, ready to wage war in the name of conformity or individuality. Coming from backgrounds both socially and geographically diverse, each teen contestant is now out to win one million pesos cash, a condo unit, and other prizes, using strategies learned from the two previous seasons of the phenomenal fish bowl reality show.

Coming right after the original "Pinoy Big Brother" and its "Celebrity Edition" sequel, "PBBTE" may look like more of the same. But as any psychologist will . tell you, the teenag- REVIEW er-with his/her pent up angst and compulsive desire to fall in love at the drop of a hat-may just be the most fascanating age bracket to be subjected to Big Brother's voyeuristic experiment. And it certainly won't hurt ABS-CBN's ratings, in view of the fact that young people make up the largest share of the TV-watching population today. The show has even been given an earlier time slot to allow more viewers to see it, right after "TV Patrol World."

What all this boils down to is perhaps the most fascinating and promising "PBB" variation yet, one that has all the scientific curiosity of a psychology experiment and the emotional nakedness of a religious retreat or bull

Indeed, the first week's episodes have already delivered on some aspects of this intrigue: a boy has revealed his feelings to his crush, and she says they can be friends (ouch!); a middle-class girl is treated like a pariah by the more economically challenged housemates: a shouting match has even erupted between two girls during a discussion about their parents. And as of this writing, one participant has volunteered to leave Kuya's house, negating the need for an evic-

This early, some fans are already predicting that single mom Jamilla will win because she has the sympathy factor going for her. Like "PBB Celebrity Edition" winner Keanna Reeves, the attractive Jamilla appears to need the show's cash prize more than any other housemate. She has a twoyear-old son who needs an operation, and she even worked as a GRO in a bar to make

These obvious ploys to encourage conflict and promote sympathy aside, you get the



GERALD Anderson and Nina Jose

With so many impressionable youngsters watching, not to mention prudes ready to pounce, this latest edition has become a sanitized victim of the show's own success

feeling that the show's producers are holding back in terms of creating potentially controversial story lines. This might be because authorities in the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) are intensely monitoring "PBBTE" to make sure that none of the housemates—some of whom are minors—is exploited. In a recent episode, the kids were made to dress up as red and black ants and wrestle in a gooey mix that looked like peanut butter. After the fight, the teens removed the headpieces and the bulky rear

ends of their costumes, revealing them to be wearing body-hugging tights underneath. But viewers were only allowed a second or two to see the teens in their revealing tights Clearly, those behind the cameras don't want anyone complaining that the kids are being treated like sex objects.

Even the peanut butter wrestling was shown in a comical way, with the action being sped up or shown at normal speed to make it funny instead of sexually suggestive.

And oddly enough, after all the hype surrounding Rustom Padilla's "coming out" in PBB Celebrity Edition, and the debate about original "PBB" housemate Uma's sexual preference, there is now no mention of homosexuality among the house's current occupants. The most we've seen is a girl who acts tomboyish. (Hmmm...could lesbianism be this edition's surprise trump card?)

That's "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition" for you. It's the most compulsively watchable show on primetime TV today, but it's probably the first time in Philippine television that the bar has actually been lowered instead of raised for a prime time show. With so many impressionable youngsters watching, not to mention prudes ready to pounce, "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition" has now become a sanitized victim of its own success.





WHAT'S INSIDE



Lose billions, get pay raise

Gov't asked to lower BIR's collection target for this i year

Editor Raul O. Marcelo . Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

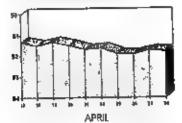
Text as your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: ar_business@inquirer.com.ph



Domestic output seen to grow 5% in 2006

BSP says inflation may average at 7.1% this year, lower than '05 level

CHRRENCIES

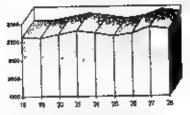


PESO-DOLLAR RATE 51.785 =

As of 5 p.m., April 28, 2006

5 GOLD \$638.30-638.80 per cunca Hong Kong, April 28, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page 85)

Trading still seen upbeat

STOCK INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO continue tracking first quarter results when trading resumes this week.

"Earnings reports are slowly coming out with positive indications " AB Capital Securities wrote in a daily report

The benchmark PSEI rose 7.5 points to 2,270.53 last week.

Last week, share prices also rebounded on news that the government has shelved plans to lift the value-added tax on oil to soften the impact of skyrocketing crude prices.

BP Trade meanwhile expects a correction towards the end of the week

"While buying sentiment remains strong, we may still see this correction continuing

Exporters gain edge in easier transfer of TCCs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED THE ruses on the transferability of tax credit certificates held by distressed exporters, allowing the traders to address their liquidity problems by selling the TCCs to government finan-

cial institutions. Ernesto Hiansen, head of the Department of Finance's duty and drawback center, told reporters that his office recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Board of Investments to ease the rules on the transferability of TCCs.

Most exporters holding TCCs are registered with the BOL

Under the Omnibus Investment Code, exporters are exempted from the value-added tax and duties imposed on the importation of raw materials and capital equipment. The exemption is an incentive to the traders' dollar contributions to the country.

But under the fiscal incentives system, exporters must first pay the taxes and duties every time they import. They are allowed to refund the tax and duty payments after they have actually exported the finished products that used the imported raw materials. This is to ensure that only exported products are covered by the tax and duty exemptions.

Exporters use the TCCs, assued by the duty and drawback center, to show that they are entitled to tax and duty refunds.

But claims for refunds usually take two to three months to process, and so exporters have been allowed to sell TCCs to immediate-

Originally, a BOI-registered exporter can only sell TCCs to another BOI-registered firm with which it has trading relations. But recently, the BOI and the DOF's duty and drawback center have allowed distressed firms to sell TCCs to other BOI-registered companies even if the two firms do not have trading rela-

The BOI and the DOF unit further relaxed the rules when they agreed that distressed trading firms could sell their TCCs to government financial insutations.

The BOI is currently formulating the requirements before a company can be considered in distress. It said the parameters that would be used to define a "distressed company" should include the following: in-EXPORTERS/ B2

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO POST A 5 PERcent growth in domestic output this year, sustaining last year's GDP expansion of 5.1 percent, based on a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas poll of 25 private ana- mestic product and inflation outlook

In its first quarter survey on gross do- said the inflation rate could average at

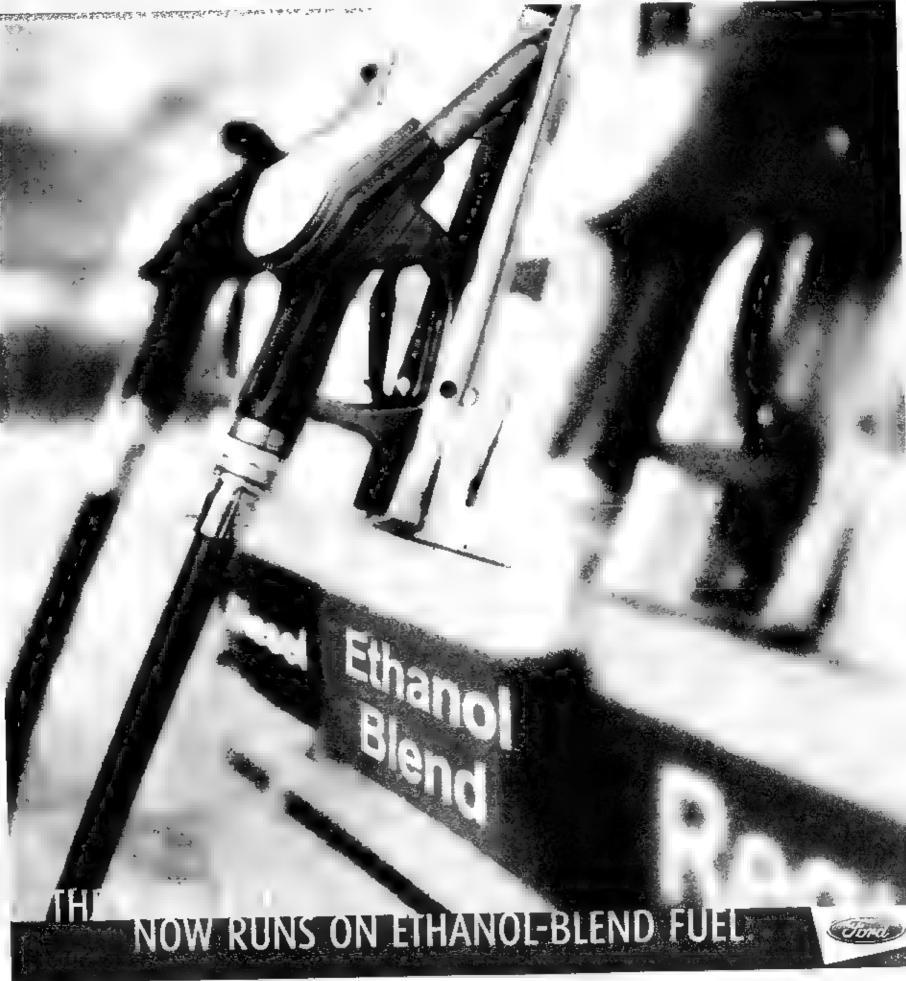
among private institutions, the BSP also

7.1 percent this year, lower than last year's 7.6 percent, on expectations of stable oil prices and continuing appreciation of the peso against the US dol-

For next year, the survey indicated that the inflation rate could slow down to 5.8 percent, while the GDP growth rate could reach 4.9 percent.

The latest GDP growth forecast for this year is higher than the 4.8 percent median that came out in the last quarterly survey of the BSP, but it is still lower than the government's revised growth target range of 5 5 to 6.2 percent.

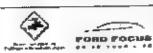
According to the BSR analysts cit-





It's the country's first Flex Fuel Vehicle*, running on pure gasoline or gasoline mixed with up to 20% ethanol. Ethanol is made from natural sugarcane, making this alternate fuel renewable and environment-friendly. While other vehicles are still getting ready to be ethanol capable, this car is clearly ready for the future.

*Applies to Ford Focus Sport 2.0L and Ghia 1.8L



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CONTRACTOR NEED AND PROPERTY

Business

Construction of coal-fired plant in Subic seen to lower Freeport power costs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 300megawatt coal-fired power plant in Subic would help push power rates in the Freeport lower and nearer to the regional price benchmark that are attractive to

Armand C. Arreza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said

electricity costs would also be lowered reza said. through a petition for a 35-centavo-perkWh reduction in rate now pending with the Rnergy Regulatory Commission.

Arreza said the power rate in Subic could be slashed to as low as P5 a kWh, which would make it the cheapest in the country.

"But that would still be about 10 US cents, higher than the competitive benchmark of 7 cents for the region," Ar-

Taiwan Cogeneration Corp.'s planned facility would mainly serve Subic locators—especially the Taiwanese firms at the Subic Bay Industrial Park-but it would also supply power to the grid.

SBMA earlier announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Taiwan Cogen covering the construction of the \$300-million power plant.

could cost about \$400 million.

We need at least 180 MW of additional capacity," Arreza said, "We also need to lower power rates considerably because foreign investors are passing up on Subic in favor of other locations in the region with cheaper energy costs."

The official cited as examples four optical disc manufacturing companies

But Arreza said the entire project based in Taiwan, three of which ended up either in Thailand or Vietnam, where electricity costs 5 cents a kWh. The remaining firm is now having second thoughts about Subic.

Under the MOU that was signed last February, Taiwan Cogen would prepare a study on the power supply needs of about a thousand companies and establishments operating at the freeport zone.

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Napocor to cut use of Vis-Min oil-fired plants

State-run power firm to turn to cheaper hydro, geothermal resources in South

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER Corp. aims to reduce its use of oil-fired power plants in the Visayas and Mindanao grids to single-digit levels-the same way it did to its oil-fed facilities in

Napocor's bunker-based plants in 2005 accounted for only 2 percent of power generation in Luzon.

using indigenous fuels such as hydro and geothermal.

This enabled Napocor to cut the share of oil-based generation in Luzon to only 2 percent last year from 9.5 percent the previous year.

In the Visayas grid, oil-based plants accounted for only 14 percent of total generation in 2005, down from 19 percent the year before.

the state firm to turn to power plants mission Corp.'s Leyte-Cebu line, which brought power from geothermal-nich Leyte to power-hungry parts of Visayas.

While Napocor was able to reduce the use of oil-based plants in Luzon and Visayas, it did not do as well in Mindanao, as bunker-based generation actually increased to 32 percent last year from 27 percent in 2004, Del Callar

The reverse happened in Mindanao Napocor president Cyril del Callar Del Callar said this could be attributed because it was dry season in the south-said the high cost of fuel had prompted to the completion of the National Transers part (last year)," he said.

Del Callar said that, with the expected rainfall to be brought on by the La Niña weather disturbance this year, bunker-based generation in Mindanao would go back to around 27-28 per-

Mindanao is heavily dependent on hydropower facilities for its power

But by 2007, Mindanao will be in for a "paradigm shift" when a 200-megawatt coel-fired power plant on the island starts commercial operations, he said.

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Trading still seen upbeat

shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. trade lower over the long holiday weekend," BPI Trade said.

BPI Trade said the market's support are at 2,270, 2,200, 2,172, 2,100. Resistance on the other hand may be at 2,270, 2,300 and then at 2,400.

Based on 2TradeAsia.com's roundup of corporate updates last week, companies that have announced their first quarter income include ABS-CBN Corp., which posted a turnaround in net profit to P121 million from a net loss of P114 million in the same est of BDO and EPCI shareholdquarter last year.

Manila Water Corp. of the Ayala Group said its net earnings grew 24 percent to P600 million in the first quarter

same period last year.

Also, SM Investments Corp. said it was hiking its working capital budget for this year to P15 billion.

Land Inc. said it bought back 800,000 common shares at 66.38 centavos a share as part of its buy-back program.

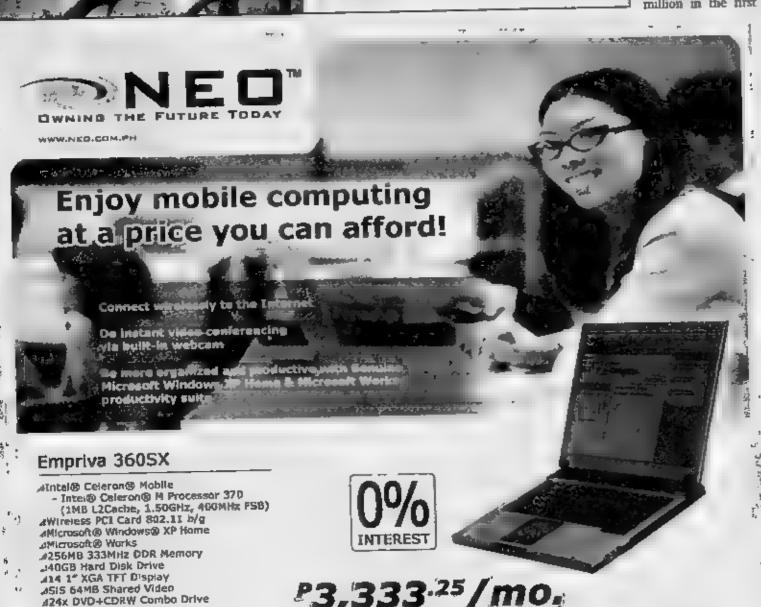
Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) meanwhile said it was still keen on a merger with Equitable PCIBank (EPCI), despite recent controversies. BDO believes the merger of both banks will be in the best interers. BDO said it would wait for indications from the EPCI Bank board before making any move to amend as offer price.

eTelecare International sales.

(this) week; particularly if from P483 million in the meanwhile is eyeing to list its shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange and the US technology-laced Nasdaq market later this year or early 2007 This was the latest statement Meanwhile, Empire East from A. Soriano Corp. chief

Andres Soriano III. Construction firm DMCI Holdings Inc. has submitted a bid to the Power Asset and Liabilities Management for the 600-megawatt Batangas coal-fired thermal power plant in Calaca, Batangas

San Miguel Corp. late last week said it would postpone its proposed offer of a rare type of shares and pursue an investiganon on allegations from an anonymous letter sender claiming that one of its subsidiaries has overstated its Elizabeth L. Sanchez



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Domestic output seen ...

ed the following factors that led to the higher growth forecast: ditional room for government spending on key areas such as continued infrastructure; strength in the services sector, and recovery in agricultural output."

The most optimistic projection on domestic output for this year was made by Forecast Singapore, which indicated a 5.9 percent outlook. The lowest forecast was made by British Bank HSBC, which expected growth to hit 4.3 percent.

For 2007, the highest GDP growth projection was given by AB Capital Securities, with 6.1 percent. The lowest was made by Credit Lyonnais, with 2.8 per-

Other institutions included in the survey were ABN-Amro, ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Bank of America, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Business Monstor International, Cingroup, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of Singapore, Economist Intelligence Unit, iDEA, ING Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Macquarie Bank Ltd., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Multinational Investment Bank, Philippine Equity Partners, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Standard Chartered of the Avian Flu virus.

Bank, UBS Warburg and Wallace Business Forum.

On inflation, the consensus forecast for this year was slight-"Improved investor confidence ly lower than the 7.2 percent indue to fiscal performance; ad- dicated in the BSP's previous survey. The private analysts cited the limited impact of the reformed value-added tax as manufacturers continued to absorb the burden of higher input

> "At the same time, some economists pointed out the potential inflation risks from global crude oil prices and the effects of the mild La Niña episode on food prices," the BSP reported.

> The consensus for this year was even lower than the government's forecast range of 7.3 to 7.9

The government has conceded that the 4-5 percent official inflation target for this year may be reached, but the same target range may also be met next year.

Oil prices are seen to constitute the dominant risk affecting the outlook on prices.

Also seen as a major risk by the BSP was the pending adjustment in domestic power transmission charges, which imply eventual increases in energy costs at the retail lever

Other potential sources of price pressures on the supply side include the La Niña weather disturbance, which could disrupt crop production, and the threat

Exporters gain edge

From page B1

rernal rate of return, a negative or declining balance of trade,

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and level of technol- it certificates are often sold at a discount

Hiansen said that allowing exporters to sell TCCs to government financial institherefore tutions. would also benefit the government.

admitted though that there have been a declining number of TCC transfers since the tax credit scam that happened in the late 1990s.

The government and some traders fell prey to the scam that involved the sale of fake or fraudulentiv secured TCCs.



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BUSINESS

Lose billions, get pay raise

RANK AND-FILE EMPLOYEES who fail to make their quotas get dismissed.

Over at the Export and Industry Bank, the top six officers even expect to receive a 7.4-percent salary increase this year, despite the bank last year posting a P1 635-billion loss, wiping out 30 percent of the bank's capital stock.

The compensation package for the top six officers—the bank did not identify them, but apparently these include chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. and president Benjaman Castillo-will this year be boosted to P105.59 million, from P98.3 miltion in 2004, when the bank posted P95.33 million in net income.

Ornz-Luis could very well override any boardroom objection to the pay increase, for he himself controls the single biggest block, by virtue of a voting trust for a 22.32-percent unnamed shareholder interest, as well as another 12.76-percent block in the name of the Philippme Exporters Confederation.

To be fair, the 2006 executive compensation package is about P5 million less than the 2004 package of P110.3 million.

But, then again, this year's executive pay raises come on top of the P3 billion fresh capital pumped in by existing and new sharehoiders, as well as another P7 bulion in "soft" loan extended by the government to improve the bank's financial ratios.

The bank found a sympathetic ear in Philippine Deposit Insurance holdings and IT-investment com-Corp. for the P7 billion assistance, whose president, Ricardo Tan, was an Export Bank consustant before his PDIC appointment.

Apparently, because of the bank's changed shareholder composition, a low-intensity proxy solicitation campaign is now being waged for the bank's May 26 shareholders' meeting.

A total of 25 nominees are vying for the 15-member board.

The 25 include an American, Josue Camba Jr.; a former executive director of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Albert Cheok; and Ms Excitement herself, stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco.

Disadvantaged CEO

UNLIKE their Export Bank counterparts, the top executives of the similarly-listed Wantage financial

COCKTALES



party have received no salary mcreases in the past three years.

in fact, the top officers receive no salary at all. Chair and CEO Roberto Lorayes last

year received the grand 311IRL P36,000 in per diem. for attending board meetings.

His president and Ignacio Gimenez, and treasurer/CFO, Valentino Sy, also received the same amount. But, then again, the

three officers not only co-own the company, they also have andependent sources of moome.

According to the grapevine, iVantage

expects to make a turnaround this year, after losing P122.86 million in 2004.

Saludo gets congressional prerogative

FORMER Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto "Dong" Saludo Jr. has been upheld by the Supreme Court in filing the damage suit against the American Express Bank right in Saludo's congressional district, not in his stated Pasay City address.



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Saludo filed the civil suit after has Amex card was declined in Tokyo in April 2000 during an official House trip

Likewise, a supplementary card issued to his daughter was similarly declined in the United States. In declining the card, Amex claimed that Saludo had failed to pay the previous month's balance. Saludo, for his part, claimed that he had failed to receive the Amex monthly statement.

Amid the recriminations, Amex¹ cancelled the two credit cards three months later. Citing the Pasay address in Saludo's cedula, Amex elevated the case to the Court of Appeals, which ordered Maasin' Regional Trial Court Judge Romeo Gomez to stop hearing the case because Maasin was the wrong

Amex had hoped that the case would be heard in either Makati, where Amex Philippines holds of-COCKTALES/85;

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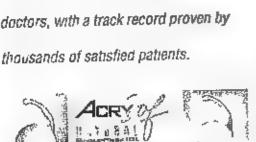


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BUSINESS

Gov't asked to lower BIR collection target for this year

Impact of mitigating measures underestimated

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE wants its revenue collection target for this year lowered, saying the P675 billion that it was tasked to collect was too high and was based on wrong estimates.

in a letter to the Department of Finance, its head agency the BIR said the DOF underestimated the revenue impact of the measures recently implemented to mutigate the impact of the Value Added Tax Reform Law.

The government has estimated that the VAT law would generate P75 billion in additional revenues this year, of which the BIR would account for about P30 billion while the rest would be contributed by the Bureau of Customs.

The said law expanded the coverage of the val-

VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent in February this lion. In effect, the BIR wants the national govyear. Previously exempted products and services, such as oil, electricity, and medical and legal servaces, are now covered by VAE

To ease the impact of the tax measure, the government implemented several relief measures. These include the reduction in the excise tax rates on oil products and the lifting of franchise tax on electric distribution firms.

The government also reduced the tariff rates on imported petroleum products from 5 to 3 percent. Economic managers recently agreed to further lower the tariff rate to zero in view of the continued escalation of oil prices in the world market.

of the mitigating measures, its revenue collec- than 60 percent of the total.

ue-added tax in November last year and raised the tion target should be lowered by P6.39 bilernment to reduce its revenue collection target for this year to P668.6 billion.

The revenue agency likewise pointed out that the DOF failed to take into consideration the input VAT credits that VAT-registered taxpayers claim. These input tax credits trim the total liabilities of the taxpayers, the BIR said.

The BIR's P675-billion collection goal for 2006 was made in line with the national government's agenda of reducing the budget deficit from P146.8 billion last year to only P125 billion this year and eventually to zero

The BIR is the biggest revenue source of the The BIR said that with the implementation national government, accounting for more

Lambino's parliament

RAUL LAMBINO, WHO SPEARheads the people's initiative to shift to the parliamentary form of government (I wonder where he gets the money for the newspaper ads of Sigaw ng Bayan), e-mailed me his April 23 press release.

Lambino's views on the parliamentary system are inaccurate and outdated.

His fellow constitutional commissioner Rene Azurin had said that those proposing a parliamentary shift "do not tell the people that the fusion of executive and legislative powers-the distinguishing feature of a parliamentary system-means that the same set of people who choose the programs of government, appropriate funds for these programs and execute these programs." (By the way, I totally agree with Azurin-please see my Jan. 24 column.)

Instead of meeting Azurin head on, Lambino says, "The coalition of executive and legislative powers under a parliamentary regime is precisely what we are after because it will eliminate gridlock not only in legislation, but also execution."

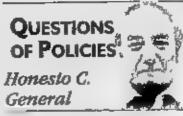
The hundreds of bills approved by the House to change the names of schools, streets and esteros cause the gridiock. This logjam can be solved without changing the form of government.

Lambino does not explain how a parhamentary system guarantees prompt execution of govern-

He goes on, "This dynamic quality will ensure that new responsive and relevant legislation will be passed quickly, and prompt execu-tion is guaranteed." Why should legislation be passed quickly? If a proposed law is new, responsive and relevant, it should be enacted slowly and deliberately-and with the help of the Senate.

Then, Lambino turns ecstatic "Once the prime minister and the Cabinet are performing inadequately, their colleagues in parliament may remove them. If and when the parliament is uncooperative, then the prime minister may revamp parliament and call for new elections. This is how parliamentary systems work in dozens of highly successful and developed countries. This is precisely the beauty of the parliamentary system that has been doing wonders for some of the world's most progressive countnes-most of Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada, to name a few."

If it is easy to get rid of a bad prime munister by means of the confidence vote, it is just as easy to get rid of a good one.



When the largest party does not hold a solid majority, a coalition is forged with smaller parties to gain control of parliament. In such a situation, the opposition may try to topple the government by a confidence vote. But when the ruling party commands a huge majority, such as in the United Kingdom and Singapore today, the opposition will not even try to mount a confidence vote because it will surely fail.

The confidence vote has become less effective in toppling parliaments. Gone are the post World War II days when parliaments changed every few months, as in Italy and France, Today, because of structural changes, including adopting certain aspects of the presidential system, parhaments have become more stable.

in France, under the current Gaullist constitution, parhament can oust the president. But the president can abolish parliament with a stroke of the pen. Because of this standoff, a confidence vote has not taken place in the last 40 years. In Japan, the ruling party was once so dominant that it stayed in power for 30 years. In Canada recently, a confidence vote, the first in 13 years, toppled the government. In Australia, a confidence vote has not been taken for some time. There has never been a confidence vote in Singapore where the opposinon now holds two lonely seats.

As a way to change a parliamentary government, the confidence vote has become as difficult, if not more so, as the impeachment process in the presidential system.

Lambino lumps all parliamentary systems into one mold. But there no two parliaments that are exactly alike. If 150 countries are under the parliamentary system, there are exactly 150 different versions of the system.

Finally, Lambino says, "The system has served other advanced countries well. There is no reason why we should deprive our people a highly progressive and more agreeable parliamentary system of government."

The parliamentary system may have served advanced countries well. But it has not helped at all the poor suffering nations around the world, particularly in Africa.

Furniture exports up 3.3% in 2005 REVENUE FROM FURNITURE EXPORTS partment of Trade and Industry said.

reached \$303.8 million last year, up 3.3 percent from about \$295 million in 2004, the De-

Of last year's earnings, 68 percent accounted for shipments to the United States. Japan absorbed 4 percent of the total while 2 percent went to Great Britain.

Also, the DTI said 7.6 percent of the amount represented products from Cebubased Dedon Manufacturing Inc., which produces aluminum furniture.

According to the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Berlin, parent firm Dedon GmbH would continue expanding its operation in the Philippines and has earmarked \$5 million for capital outlay for the next three years.

Dedon's performance was hailed as a successful synergy between Philippine craftsmanship and German technology.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the partnership not only contributed significant dollar earnings but growth for Cebu and employment for Cebuanos.

The company, which was established in 2000 with an initial capital investment of P14.3 million, now has a workforce of 2,730. This is expected to reach 3,000 by yearend.

"We consider the employees our partners because we associate them to the company's success," said Dedon president Herve Lambert

He said the parent firm chose to invest in Cebu due to the province's reputation as the Mecca of tradinional basket weaving.

Dedon's furniture design begins with the material called Hularo fiber-a synthetic material developed and produced in Germany—which is then hand-woven into furniture in Cebu.

Ronnel W. Domingo

IP PHILIPPINES' TM ONLINE

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, fed by its director general Adrian Cristobal Jr. (center), recently launched the Trademark Ordine Filing System (TM Online), a secure, web-based filing system for applications for the registration of trademarks, service marks, geographical indications and other marks of ownership. An alternative filing system, TM Online offers trademark applicants and agents accessibility and convenience in filing trademark applications with IP Philippines from any location, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With Cristobal are Optical Media Board Chair Edu Manzano (right) and IP lawyer Ferdinand Negre (seated, left), who performed the ceremonial TM Online filing during the launch.

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DOF expects 20% growth in Q1 corporate income tax revenue

a 20 percent growth in its first quarter corporate income tax collection due largely to the recent increase in the tax level to 35 percent from 32 percent.

According to an official of the Department of Finance, the increase in the corporate income tax level has so far been delivering the expected revenue gains for the government. The official, however, declined to give ab- er consumer spending that jacked up

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROJECTING solute figures, saying the numbers were still being finalized.

The corporate income tax rate hike was one of the provisions of the Value Added Tax Reform Law, which primarily expanded the coverage of the system and raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent.

The expected 20-percent growth in collection was also attributed to high-

corporate sales, and to inflation, which raised prices of commodines.

Inflation stood at 7.6 percent in March, buoyed by the additional VAT and the escalating prices of oil in the world market.

In 2005, corporate income tax collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue reached P29 billion. This reflected a 23-percent growth from the P23 5 billion in 2004.

Emirates wants more flights to RP

By Daxim L. Lucas

DUBAL UAR-EMIRATES AIRLINES wants to increase its flights between the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines to service growing passenger traffic.

in a press briefing here, Emirates senior vice president Richard Vaughn said additional flights between Manila and Dubai would be a welcome development, given that present flights were almost always fully booked.

"We're keen on increasing frequencies to Manila," said the official who is in charge of the airline's commercial operations in East Asia and Australasia.

Emirates operates 10 flights a week between Dubai and Manila using Airbus A330 aircraft. The airline is enritled to five flights under a bilateral agreement with the government, and has leased five slots from Philippine Airlines under a code sharing arrangement.

There is nothing currently on the (negotiating) table, but relations with the Philippine government is ongoing," he said.

There are about 100,000 overseas Pilipino workers based in the UAR—the third most popular destination for contract workers overseas. Most Filipinos work in either the service, construction or oil industries in Dubai or the emirates' capital Abu Dhabi.



PRESENT flights to and from the Philippines almost always fully booked, says company official.

The Emirates official pointed out that the airline does not operate in a traditional way during bilateral negotiations for air rights because the UAE maintains an open skies policy. This means that it cannot use landing rights as a negotiating tool vis-a-vis its counterparties which can fly into Dubai as often as they want.

In contrast, Philippine officials-egged on by a strong Philippine Airlines lobby have zealously guarded the rights of local carriers to be protected against foreign airlines, which they perceive to be preying on the weaknesses of the local air transportation system.

Vaughn pointed out that the East Asian market was important for Emirates since the region provided the airline with

one-third of its annual revenue. During Wednesday's briefing, Emi-

rates announced record revenues and profits for the fiscal year that ended last March, despite the spike in petroleum prices that has hurt many other airlines around the world.

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the airline reported total revenues of \$6.6 billion and a group net income of \$762 million.

"This is the 18th consecutive year of profit for the airline making it the second most profitable airline in the world," Emirates chair and chief executive Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum said in a briefing on the company's performance. Singapore Airlines is the most profitable.

VOLUME

Business

Savings put in investments down

More money deposited in banks or sent, spent abroad

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL SAVINGS RATE IS increasing but the portion of savings placed in investments is dwindling.

In a speech during the recent national convention of local government units' budget officers, Monetary Board member and former Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong warned that the country might be seeing the start of a capital flight

She noted that the national savings rate or the amount of income that was being saved accounted for 27.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2004 and 27.8 percent in 2005

"This is very encouraging because there was a time when our savings rate was much lower," Amatong said. She, however, added that the portion of GDP that went to investments stood at only 17.1 percent in 2004 and 15.7 percent in 2005.

While we as a nation have saved more, the amount of savings put into investments was less," Amatong said.

"The pertinent question is where were the savings going if not invested? The answer: They are either put in banks as deposits or kept under our beds or are sent abroad to be spend there or a combination of these," Amatong said.

"Our investments as a percentage of GDP is low and that means that we are not investing enough in infrastructure or other projects to raise our capital stock," she said

Taking a closer look at the finances of all LGUs excluding barangays, Amatong said the bulk of income was coming from about 65 percent in 2004 while meet, but because they want pay the worker anything? To mur-chabito@ateneo.edu internal revenue allotment at locally generated income represented only 32 percent.

She said provinces were noted to be heavily dependent on IRA and other transfers from the national government to the tune of By Elizabeth L. Sanchez 82 percent, while locally generated receipts accounted for only 15 percent in 2004.

For cities, the ratios were better because IRA and government transfers accounted for 44 percent while locally generated funds accounted for 52 percent.

Murucipalities were 78 percent dependent on government transfers and only 20 percent self-generating.

"The only sustainable source of financing for local governments is locally or internally generated resources. It is, thus, important that this source of financing be carefully engineered, structured and administered," Amatong said.

All work and no pay

LABOR DAY IS SUPPOSED TO BE a day in celebration of workers worldwide-unless you happen to be a worker who can't find a job. If you don't need a job or are not looking for one, that's fine; you're not counted as a member of the labor force.

If you're working but your job isn't quite enough to meet your needs, then you wouldn't be in much of a celebrating mood either. You would be what the statistics refer to as being underemployed.

Rising incidence

What is most disturbing about the most recent employment statisnes is that there has been a dramatic rise in the proportion of our workers who are underemployed. Their number has jumped by close to 2 million, from 5.1 million last year to 6.9 million as of last count (January 2006). As a percentage of total employed workers, they had gone up from 16.1 to 21.3 percent.

This puts a major damper on the seemingly good news that the unemployment rate had dropped from 11.3 percent last year to 10.7 percent this year. The number of jobs may have increased, but the quality of those jobs had gotten worse-much worse, in fact. We'll say more on job quality below

Part time work

There are two kinds of underemployed workers: Those who are visibly underemployed and those who are invisibly so. The visibly underemployed are not working a full 40 hours a week or 8 hours a day, or working only part time and wanting to work more if possible. But some may already be working full time but want, or need, more work. Their full time jobs may not be enough to make ends meet for their famihes. Of course, some full-time workers may want more work not because they cannot make ends



something better than simply making ends meet.

The bad news is that visible underemployment has been steadily rising over the years. In 1997, a littie less than half of the total underemployed (2.8 million out of 5.8 million) were only working part time. In 2002, this share was up to two-thirds (3.3 million out of 5.1 million). Now, over 4 million Filipino workers are visibly underemployed, making up about three out of five of the total underemployed. What this simply means is that a lot of the new jobs are really part time and seasonal jobs, much of it (i.e. about half) in the farm sector.

Umpaid work

A closer look at the published statistics tells us what's really going on. There were 750,000 new jobs created between January 2005 and January 2006, according to data from the National Statistics Office. There are at least two things that are disturbing about this statistic. First, about a million new workers join our labor force every year, which means the new jobs created failed to even catch up with the new job-seekers.

Second, of the 750,000 new jobs created, more than half (389,000 or 52 percent) were in the form of unpaid family workers. Only 98,000 new wage-paying jobs were generated, while the self-employed took up the rest. In contrast, just a year before, unpaid family work made up only 42 percent of the new jobs created. What good are new jobs, whether full-time or part-time, if they don't

der an old saying, all work and no pay makes Juan dirt poor.

Getting serious

All this is happening while the economy is supposedly growing at more than 5 percent. Clearly, our economy is not growing the right way. We need the jobs where the jobless are. It was quite an insult when someone in government recently declared that the reason there's so much unemployment is that Filipino workers are too choosy. Surely, trained schoolseachers who settle for domestic jobs abroad or even here at home (I know at least one myself) are not being choosy.

On the contrary, the reason there's so much unemployment and underemployment is that the strategies to achieve growth in GDP and to achieve growth in jobs are not integrated together, as if these were two separate concerns. We produce growth by fostering high-visibility enterprises that give few jobs, and then produce jobs by paying thousands of people to wear blue shirts with someone's name and pretend to keep the highways clean. What about getting serious about the sector that accounts for 12 million jobs, and could easily account for so much more-the agriculture sector? What about having hundreds of millions of pesos meant for fertilizers really spent for fertilizers, for example?

I realize workers, and more especially involuntary non-workers, don't have much to celebrate about-but happy Labor Day, nonetheless.

Fuchsia, not fuschia

I misspelled the word "fuchsia" last week, but I'll bet a few of you even noticed. If so few of us can really spell fuchsia properly, how can you fault Erap for preferring red?

Comments welcome

income down to P362M

BROADCASTING FIRM GMA Network Inc.'s income in the first quarter dropped slightly to P362 million from P400 million in the jika. same period last year.

The slight reduction was attributed to an industry-wide reduction in advertising revenues.

Consolidated gross revenues grew to P2.3 billion for the first three months, 19 percent higher than its P1.9 billion in revenues for the same period last year.

Operating expenses, however, jumped 43 percent to P1.3 billion in the first quarter, primarily due to higher production costs and in-

other primetime "telefantasya," Captain Barbell, and is currently airing a primetime program, Ma-

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda) rose 2 percent to P786 million for the first three months. Despite the industry chal-

lenges, GMA 7 managed to grab top spot in the ratings game. As of March this year, GMA 7

has maintained its lead in both Metro Manila and Mega Manila TV ratings, including the highly contested primetime block.

Data from AGBNMR placed

GMA 7's rating at 18.3 percent, The network is producing an-versus 13.1 percent for rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

AGBNMR data also showed that as of March this year, 21 of the top 30 TV programs were from GMA 7, including the top six stors.

GMA 7 also expanded its lead m the primetime block last March, posting an average rating of 26.1 percent against its rival's 20.6 percent.

Its free QTV Channel 11 also maintained its hold on the number three spot as of March.

On regional programming, the company continues its aggressive promotions in key cities, including Cebu, Davao and Ilodo.

Smart sets rates for 3G service launch

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST WIRELESS network will officially faunch commercial operations of its third-generation (3G) mobile phone network after offering free video calling and video streaming services for two months.

In a statement, Smart Communications Inc. said the service would include "new and expanded" 3G service offerings, which was supported by an extensive nationwide network ready for High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) technology.

"Starting May 1, Smart postpaid and prepaid subscribers with 3G-capable handsets will enjoy enhanced applications and extensive rich media content on a commercial basis," the company said. "These include live TV streaming of two major television networks and 3G downloads of full music tracks and video clips."

Under the introductory pricing scheme that would take effect today, Smart 3G rates were aligned with existing second-generation rates, while some services will remain free of charge.

For video calling, Smart-to-Smart local 3G video calls remain free of charge. Smart's 3G customers can also make international video calls for the price of a regular IDD call at \$0.40 a minute to eight 3G operators in six countries.

These include NTT DoCoMo in Japan, CSL, Smartone and Hutchison in Hong Kong, Starhub in Singapore, Chunghwa in Taiwan, Vodafone in Germany and Mobilkom in Aus-

Meanwhile, video calling on International rosming will remain the same as international roaming voice rates for both outbound and

inbound roamers. For Video and audio streaming, all Smart

3G video and audio streaming applications-including live TV viewing-will be charged a P15 access fee for every 30 minutes based on running time that starts when a subscriber clicks on a streaming link regardless of the number of videos viewed

Aside from the access charge, there will be a separate fee for content.

Smart 3G subscribers can watch GMA 7 and ABS-CBN 2 live via video streaming. Subscription fee for each network is P20 a day, 3G streaming of audio and video clips will be charged P5 a hit.

However, streaming of movie trailers, live traffic and summer hotspots cameras and music videos will be free of charge.

Por Multimedia Messaging or MMS, rates across all Smart subscribers have been set at PI a message for Smart-to-Smart messages and P2 an MMS for Smart to other operators. The previous rate for MMS was P5 a send.

For Internet browsing and WAP browsing using GPRS and 3G, the rate will be set at P10 for every 30 minutes, regardless of the file size downloaded. The charge applies to browsing Internet

sites outside of the free Smart WAP site whether connected via GPRS or 3G.

Por downloading Smart 3G content such as video clips, ringtones, visual ringers, and games, the introductory rates range from P20 for a video clip download to PSO for a full music track and a premium game.

Downloading of preview clips will be free

For postpaid subscribers, all introductory 3G rates are part of their consumable plans. Corporate accounts have the option to use the introductory pricing or retain their current data consumption rate based on their contracts.

Smart currently has approximately 250,000 subscribers with 3G-capable handsets.

Cocktales

fice, or in Pasay City, the stated office address/residence of Saludo in his community tax

The CA decision prompted Supreme Court Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. to give an extended lecture to CA Justices Renato Dacudao (the ponente), Gorardo Jacinto and Rodrigo Costco on the distinction between residence and domicile.

"A man can have but one domicile for one and the same purpose at any time, but he may have numerous places of residence," Callejo said, adding that the CA justices had cited the wrong jurisprudence for their wrong-venue

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"Absent any evidence to the contrary, he (Saludo) is deemed to possess the qualifications of the said position (congressman of Southern Leyte), including that he was a resident therein" at the time of the filing of the

It is not clear whether Amex would still appeal the decision to the Supreme Court en banc, but Callejo belongs to the First Division, chaired by no less than Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who concurred in Callejo's decision.

Heard through the grapevine

MALABON Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio has been slapped with a "dend-beat dad" suit by his former wife Ardel Dionisio for his alleged failure to provide PS,000 monthly support for their minor child, despite a 2003 court order from Malabou RTC Judge Emmanuel Laurea.

(Email: cocktales pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales pdi@yahoo.com)

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BUSINESS

Guimaras mangoes' prospects turning sour

Mindanao fisheries sector up

DAVAO CITY-MINDANAO'S FISHERIES sector grew 3.83 percent in 2005, according to data from the Mindanao Economic Development Council

Medco data showed that the island's fish production in 2005 reached 1,763.1 metric tons, up from 1,698 metric tons the previous

Medeo said aquaculture production posted the biggest increase of 6.7 percent from 765.9 metric rons in 2004 to 817.3 metric tons in

Among the regions, Western Mindanao covering Zamboanga, Pagadian and Dipolog cities posted the biggest increase of 11.45 percent, followed by the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) at 5.82 percent.

Medco said the double-digit increase in commercial and aquaculture production triggered the impressive growth of the economy of Western Min danso.

Central Mindanao, meanwhile, covering Cotabato and General Santos cities, registered the biggest decline of 11.93 percent because of the cut in commercial fish produc-

As this developed, Medco said Mindanao's share in the country's poultry production also increased to 20.45 percent in 2005.

From 231,512 metric tons in 2004, the island's chicken production rose to 241,429

"The upward trend in the chicken production pulled the overall poultry production in Mindanao to a positive growth rate of 3.49 percent higher than the 1.38 national growth rate in poultry production," Medco

Southern Mindanao and Northern Mindanao were the biggest contributors in the island's growth in poultry production at 21.91 percent and 13.10 percent, respectively.

But Medco noted that while chicken production continued to be in the uptrend, duck production in the island declined by 8.93 per-Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Production problems top list of industry's woes; mango congress set

By Ma. Diosa Labiste PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-THE WOES OF THE local mango industry could turn it sour. Saying that their claim to fame of hav-

ing the sweetest and pest-free mangoes is not enough, agriculture officials and mango growers in Guimaras and Iloilo are now looking at ways to improve production volume to meet demand.

floile used to be among the top four producers of the country, but it has slid

Gunnaras is the only source of Philippine mangoes exported to the United States, but

is not on the list of top mango producers.

Pangasinan is the top producer of mangoes in the country at 300,000 metric tons a year.

tons of mangoes a year.

Iloilo mangoes are produced mainly by small farmers. It was only recently that mango plantations started being developed, mostly in northern Iloilo.

In the southern part of the provinces where the soil and climate are suitable for mango growing, mango producers rely on small farmers with one or two trees each.

10,000 to 11,000 metric tons a year, but

the province is the envy of floilo because. its mangoes meet the standards of the United States and Australia.

Last year, Guimaras exported to the Iloilo only produces 30,000 metric United States and Australia some 500 metnic tons valued at P38 to P40 a kilo, up from 311 metric tons at P28 a kilo in 2004.

Guimaras mangoes sell for \$2 each in the United States.

The Philippines total export of fresh and processed mangoes in 2005 totaled \$36 million, of which \$26 million came from the sale of fresh mangoes.

The major markets for mangoes in-Guimaras production is only between chude the United States, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and China.

In anticipation of further growth in demand, agriculture officials in Guimaras are now working to increase production.

Representatives from the Iloilo Mango Growers Cooperative (IMGC) said the challenge was how to expand the combine 2,300 hectares planted to mangoes to meet the foreign demand.

The 32-member cooperative was organized only last year in an attempt to solve problems of the industry, said IMGC board director Wilfredo Telarma.

The problems and opportunities in the country's mango industry will be discussed during the eighth National Mango Congress from May 17 to 19 here.

Puerto Princesa battles air, noise pollution

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY-THIS city prides itself in being the deanest and greenest in the country. But it may well also be one of the noisiest because of its tricycles.

The tricycles with unique, larger-thanusual designs are intended to transport not just people, but cargo, too.

They are fitted with sidecars with shelves at the front and back sections

to load produce. The windshield is wide and the sidecar is roomy to accommodate

more cargo or passengers. As of 2005, there were about 4,000 tricycles in Puerto Princesa's poblacion.

Each tricycle measures 1.6 meters in height, 1.8 meters in width, and almost 2 meters in length. The tricycles are generally not roadworthy in design because the large side-

cars are relatively unstable, most engines are old and poorly maintained. They therefore take more effort to operate, and make more noise than their newer counterparts, reaching

90-97 decibels (dB). Studies suggest prolonged exposure to noise levels at or above 80 dB

can cause deafness But instead of decreasing, the muniber of tricycles has increased, and expected to further increase, due to growing demand and population growth.



THE UNIQUE tricycles are good and bad for Puerto Princesa.

To address the problem, Mayor Edward Hagedorn implemented a colorcoding scheme for tricycles.

This effectively cut by half the number of tracycles plying the city streets, thereby reducing air pollution.

"It's an embarrassment to be promoting the city as environmentfriendly when there was so much air pollution. So we had to make a very drastic move ... traffic was immediately reduced," Hagedorn said during a recent interview.

But it has not been enough.

The scheme did not address other problems, like poor tricycle maintenance and providing drivers with al-

ternative livelihood in a city with a 14percent unemployment rate.

Most tricycle drivers are low-income earners.

A 2003 survey conducted by the Asian Development Bank found that 70 percent of the drivers do not properly maintain their tricycles.

They only earn a daily net income of between P100 and P150, or less than \$3. Tricycle-driving is a popular means of living here since it does not require

much skill

The ADB study also found that the road network was mostly made up of

narrow streets and is not expanding. Thus, all directions point to an in-

crease in demand for tricycles. This, despite the hazards they pose on the streets. But there is hope for the city's air pollution problem when it launched late last year an Air and Noise Pollution Reduction Strategies Project from a \$240,000-ADB grant.

The project will reduce air pollution from tricycles by the third quarter this year and provide more teeth to the enforcement of air pollution laws

Half of the fund will go to a Tricycle Multi-Purpose Fund to help operators upgrade their engines from twostroke to four-stroke engines or to explore other means of livelihood.

Drivers will be trained on proper maintenance of the tricycles.

The city's enforcement and monitoring of its Clean Air Act laws will also be strengthened, especially for roadside emission monitoring and in catching smoke belchers.

Registration of engines in operation for over 15 years will also be restricted.

The grant came from the ADB's Poverty and Environment Program, and will also tackle the environmental and the underlying social issues turrounding the tricycle sector.

The lessons learned from the project will be the basis in formulating and replicating strategies in other cities with similar air and noise pollution problems.

People, Events Products

1st Pana MediaFest: A huge success!

IF YOU STILL BELIEVE IN THE saying "there is no such thing as a free lunch" then you certainly have missed the thrills and surprises during the Pana MediaFest. Organized by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) in cooperation with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) - Radio Sector and the United Print Media Group (UPMG), this 2-day event was the first of its kind in the Philippines. It was primarily structured to help advertisers boost their marketing plans in these trying times by helping them re-discover the power of radio and print.

This 2-day event was held last April 20 - 21, at the ground floor of the Makati Stock Exchange Building. It was attended by more than a thousand people coming from both Pana and Non-Pana member companies, KBP and UP-MG member companies, allied associations such as 4A's, and by students and the academe.

The first day of the event commenced with a mass sponsored by

KBP It was then followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony done by the presidents of the three organizing bodies - Blen Fernando (Pana), Butch Canoy (KBP) and Pepsto Olarte (UPMG). They also gave their individual welcome remarks to the members of the three organizations right after, to formally open the event.

Day one showcased an educational talk sponsored by KBP The talk was primarily centered on the "Role of Radio in the Advertising Media Mix" and was facilitated by Jun Nicdao - president of the Manda Broadcasting Company and chair of KBP

Day two gave its equal share of educational talks sponsored by UPMG. These talks were primarily centered on the power of print and why advertisers should go for it. Print and advertising authorities were invited to share their craft with the very enthusiastic public. Such authorities were Gabby Libby - VP for IT and prepress of the Philippine Daily Inquirer who talked about "The

Print Advertising Process"; Hermie De Leon - managing director of MediaWise who talked about "What Print Can Deliver for Chents", Lizelle Maralag - managing director of Starcom Mediavest Group Philippines Inc who talked about "The Power or Unique Properties of Print" and David Guerrero - chief creative officer of BB-DO/ Guerrero Ortega who enticed the crowd with the creative side of print advertising. Because of this rare gathering of such brilliant minds, organizers were forced to stretch the limits of the lecture area and allow standing room just to accommodate all those who eagerly came to listen and be inspired.

Aside from the outstanding line-up of educational talks, the event also showcased some 82 participating KBP member networks and UPMG member companies who were all given the opportunity to exhibit their products and services to the people who attended. The Manila Broadcasting Company, for example, attracted



THE PRESIDENTS of the three organizing bodies; Butch Canoy (KBP), Blen Fernando (Pana) and Pepito Ciarte (JP-MG) during the ribbon cutting ceremony

Acer gives you more time to enjoy summer

IT'S SUMMERTIME, AND MOST viewing, and backed up by an ATT warm-bodied guys and gals will surely trek to popular vacation spots. But then again, there are those who prefer to enjoy their sweet time in solitude, completely attuned to their inner selves and are totally comfortable with hushed surroundings. With their digital devices in front of them, it's not a problem being alone, especially if you're armed with a laptop that's designed to give users more time to take pleasure in life's simple joys.

This is exactly what Acer, one of the world's leading manufacturers of laptops, desktop computers and other digital devices have in mind as they introduced to the market their latest laptop models. Take the Aspire 5562WXMI, for example. Armed with the revolutionary Intel Centrino Technology that boasts of the Core Duo processor for ultra-fast data processing, superb multi-tasking capabilities, extended connectivity and power saving features, everything that every cyberwartior needs in his inprop is practically there.

With a wide 14.1-inch WXGA color LCD screen with Acer Grid Vista that allows for multi-grid

Mobility RADEON X1400 with up to \$12Mb HyperMemory, enjoying games, listening to music and watching videos, viewing photos, surfing the Net, or watching their favorite movies whether at the comfort of their homes, by the pool side, at the neighborhood coffee shop, or just about anywhere, would still be a truly spectacular and blissful viewing experience.

But that doesn't end there because the Aspire S562WXMi offers more. It has one-touch access to most applications through us innovative Acer Empowering Technology software, where users can easily access certain applications through a single button, the Acer Signal Up Technology that increases signal strength up to a whopping 40 percent whenever you're surfing the laternet either out of the home or office, and more importantly, the Acer Aspire 5562SWXMi has the 8x DVD Double Layer drive, where one can record up to 8.5 gigabytes of data, equivalent to 4

2,000 songs. If you have plans to make your own home movie with the family or friends, or upgrade your collection of songs and photo compilation throughout the summer, this little baby truly packs the punch.

Overall, the Acer Aspire 5562WX-Mi offers other remarkable elements, like the Hyper Memory technology for faster speeds and low power consumption, and Carbon-Piber casing for 8 times more durability and mughness that's designed for the rugged user, and a host of other astonishing features. However, bottomline is the ultimate convenience and mobility that this beby brings, whether viewing multimedia data or simply surfing the Internet, as one whiles away the summer.

So if you're looking for that ultimate laptop that's packed with features that others can only dream about and at the same time translates to real value for money, which other laptop brands cannot really offer, then the Acer Aspire 5562WXMi is for you, as it gives you more time-and reason-to enhours of video or store more than joy the summer.

crowds of people with their "Radyo Roleta" games. Dream FM, on the other hand, drew attraction through the futuristic form and content of their booth, highlighted by the very slim and pretty dancing girls in pink. The booths of ABS-CBN Publishing and Philippine Daily Inquirer also attracted a huge number of visitors because of the numerous freebies being given out, e.g., glossy magazines and cuddly Guyito stuffed toys. Atlas Publishing brought in a number of celebrices and gorgeous ramp models who consistently entertained the pubhe throughout the entire event.

These are just some of the hap-

penings that took place during the days of the highly successful Pana MediaFest. All attendees left the venue premises with smiles on their faces. Aside from being enlightened by the lectures of the invited speakers, they also left with bags full of free souvenirs items. And best of all, admission to the media trade fare was free!

The 2006 Pana officers and board of directors would like to thank all those who helped make this event a huge success: the KBP and UPMG officers, their secretariat and exhibitors for participating in this 2-day media trade fair and for providing the much-needed advertising airtime and print space in

order to promote the event; the speakers who found time to share their knowledge about the power of radio and print in spite of their very busy schedules; the TBWA management and staff for conceprualizing and executing the eyecatching creative materials for the Pana MediaFest, the generous food and beverage sponsors who provided free-flowing food and drinks to all participants; the hard-working Pana secretariat, headed by their executive director Digna Santos, who made sure that everything was A-OK, and to all those who came and participated in this 2-day event. See you all at the next Pana



THE HARD-WORKING staff of the Pana secretariat. From left are: Ernel Gelegan, Ian Sairta, Alicen Lucero, Pana executive director Digna Santos, Pana president Blen Fernando, Annette Dizon, Mia Espiritu, Rey Jaucian, William Carnus and Pana treasurer Bobby Banaag.

BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'Tiangge' problem may be mall owners' creation

Suspicions raised that some items sold cheaply are used for smuggling drugs

By Alex Y. Vergara

FOR SEVERAL SHOPPING SEAsons now, the Mecca of unbelievably cheap items in Divisoria and similar establishments all over the country have been blamed for reducing the bottom-line of bigtime retailers by as much as 20

If allowed to fester, the multipronged problem is also bound to affect legitimate manufacturers and threaten the livelihood of Filipmos well beyond the confines of well-lit and air-conditioned malls and department stores. For a country with a consumption-led economy, the current situation is, indeed, a cause for concern.

Because of the depressed situation, a number of mall owners have begun to expand their operations overseas. SM, for one, now operates several malls in China, while the Ayala group is reportedly eyeing Indonesia.

But according to Samie Lim, retired chair of the Philippine Retailers Association and president of Blims Furniture, the 168 Mall in Divisoria and its ilk are just symptoms of a bigger problem spawned by mall operators them-

Because of the seeming gravity of the problem, PRA has enlisted the help of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to which it is affiliated.

To complicate the situation, a hard-up public seems to welcome the influx of cheap goods found in numerous trangge (small, itin-

erant stores) and flea markets, never mind if they end up spending more in the long run since some of these products are of substandard quality.

The problem's history dates back to 10 years with the introduction of the tiangge," says Lim. "In their quest for more income, mall owners have unwittingly created a Frankenstein that threatens the viability of their bigger legitimate tenants."

In an ironic twist, part of the lease of bigger tenants such as Penshoppe, Ginderella and Bench pay go to common areas, which, in turn, mall owners rent out to tiongge operators.

Not paying the right amount of taxes is just one of their alleged transgressions. These small time merchants pay a fixed amount while the tenants with specific spaces to maintain and promote, pay a percentage of their gross sales (as much as three percent) to mails where they do business on top of their monthly lease.

Legitimate tenants have no way to evade such deductions since their cash registers are linked to a mall's version of Big Brother-an all-seeing, all-knowing super computer.

There's a valid reason why mail owners are charging us that much," says Malou de Venecia, marketing and communications director of Cinderella Marketing Corp. "They have bigger overheads. They also promote and market their malis, which in turn bring in potential shoppers. Still, we can't help but feel that the sit-



IT DIDN'T take long for some enterprising individuals to put up air-conditioned buildings with small spaces to rent out at rock-bottom rates.

uation is a bit unfair."

They may seem almost invisible next to the likes of Penshoppe and Bench, but small-time is hardly the word to describe people behind these trougge, says Lim. Aware that there's strength in numbers and emboldened by concessions they get from major players such as SM, Robinson's and Ayala, tlongge owners have formed groups.

The tiangge's entry seemed innocuous enough in the beginning.

"It began as harmless lifestyle projects such as photo and car exhibits," he said. "Some enterprising mail people saw that there's money in renting out unused common areas. As they got greed-

ier, they started charging owners - all charges much lower rates than of trangge higher rentals."

Owners of tiangre, in turn, saw that they could get better deals and cheaper rents in places such as Baciaran, Quiapo, Greenhills and, yes, Divisoria if they group together

It didn't take long for some enterprising individuals to invest on air-conditioned buildings with small spaces to rent out to hange operators at rock-bottom rates. Thus, the likes of 168 was born.

Not just in Manila

"It may not be as fancy and as spacious as some malls are," says Lim, "but the place is well-lit, clean, air-conditioned and best of

malls do."

The phenomenon called 168 isn't confined to Metro Manila. It's replicated in other parts of the country such as Davao and Cebu, Lim adds.

Apart from encroaching on the turf of big-time retailers, some of these fly-by-night entrepreneurs are also displacing Filipino workers, as not a few of them are from mainland China. If they do employ Filipinos, most of them are reportedly paid below-minimum wages. And most of the earnings of these foreigners go back to their countries.

As to how stores at 168 and similar establishments are able to

sell their goods at almost giveaway-prices, Lim declines to go on the record.

But not a few observers believe that these items, the bulk of which come from China, are used merely to bring in much more expensive contraband, even drugs. For them to operate with impunaty, these foreign businessmen are believed to enjoy the protection of certain government officials.

In the face of such dirt-cheap products, seasoned retailers remain confident that their goods will prevail in the end. For one, they know their stuff are more superior compared to what's available in the trangge.

These unknown entities are also bereft of the cachet branded products possess by virtue either of their heritage or the magic bestowed by their famous endorsers (Bench, Bayo, Folded & Hung and Kamiseta, to name a few).

"I believe it's just a phase we're all going through," says Dino Sagun, VP for sales of Golden ABC. Inc., the company behind Penshoppe, Oxygen and Memo. "People are bound to find out, that these products are definitely much more inferior compared to branded ones. It pays to buy products made by companies with proven track records."

De Venecia remains equally optimistic that quality and brand recall will win the day for them. Besides, places like 168 don't offer added services, from sound fashion tips courtesy of trained sales personnel to facilities for creditcard purchases, like stores in

State of RP's economy, according to Divisoria

Christopher Aquino Precious Azul, Mark Christopher Babor, Jayson Opena, Anne Therese Salgado Contributors

ONE NEED NOT INTERVIEW AN economist to understand what is happening with the Philippine economy. One only needs to walk the streets of Divisoria, prowl its shops, observe, talk to the people and their stories will tell you the state of the local economy.

People from all walks of life shop in Divisoria-from the ladies of Forbes Park to the squatters of Manula.

Por 25 years, Corazon Jacinto, 49, separated, has been a vegetable vendor along the busy streets of Divisona. She claims that her daily income now is much lower than in the past years.

"The inflow of sales is too slow these days," she admits.

She also says that unake years ago when shecould give her five children with their whims, her income today is just enough for their basic needs.

There is not much money left sell products in bulk. for extras.

Divisoria, dubbed as the mother of all markets in Manila, has been busy all these years. It is a shopping haven for people from all walks of life.

This is the center of all trade, from dry to wet goods. You name it, Divisona has it.

As long as you are not particular about the smell and frenzied atmosphere of the place, you can find good bargains.

As long as you are alert for pick-pockets and snatchers, you will not lose your money.

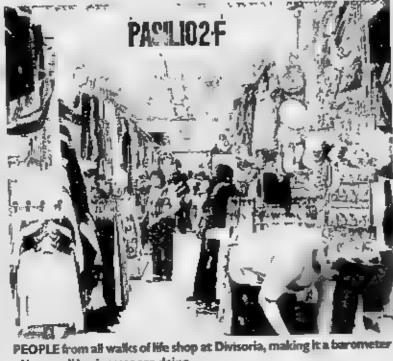
As long as you can negotiate the traffic and maneuver in the jam-packed humanity, you will

And, the main reason thousands of Filipinos keep coming back to Divisoria is it offers goods

at rock-bottom prices.

"I came from Sampaloc, Metro Manila, I prefer to buy here in Divisoria because the prices are about 50 percent cheaper than in Sampaloc," says Crisencia Salas, a Divisoria shopper, in Filipino.

Rose Gumoo, a sewer, agrees.



of how well businesses are doing.

poverty is the root of their prob-

money to spend for our goods,"

Jame Langay, a clothing shop

Divisoria people observe that

According to them, people are

Most of the customers look for

Merlinda Araullo, grocery

store owner, says that customers

are into buying in economy packs

"Shampoos in sachets, laundry

and bath soaps in small packs and

vinegars and soy sauce in tetra

packs sell well these days," she

Maria Palacio, an onion and

garlic wholesaler, says her cus-

tomers now prefer the "rejects"

because these are cheaper than

The same story was shared by

She says that from 1995-2000

There was a time when we did

Liza Duran, a saleslady in an

electronics shop, says the store

was not spared from declining

her store earned about P1,000 a

not have any sales for the day,"

the first class omons.

Anne, who sells souvenirs.

Those days are gone.

buyers resort to buying in retail.

People don't have enough

And because of poverty, the

lem with declining sales.

sales boy says.

or sachets.

more practical now.

ways to stretch their peso.

"This is where I buy linen because I can get it only for P80-P90 yard compared to P150 per yard in other stores," she says.

Divisoria vendora quote wholesale prices because they usually But people can still choose to

buy just one piece and still get a very good deal. Though people can get just

about anything at the lowest price in Divisoria, store owners and workers come to the same conclusion; Sales are declining.

Jacinto says he now earns only P1,000 a day from selling vegetables, compared to as much as P5,000 a day a few years ago.

To think that the cost of living was lower before," she adds. She also says that years ago.

those who started selling at 2 am, got back their capital by 7 am.

These days, she is only able to close her shop for the day by

"It's because these days, there seems to be more vendors than buyers," she says.

Por her, competition is very stiff in Divisoria these days.

The number of people who want to put businesses here is growing largely because they think that business here is good," she says, "Everybody wants to earn a living."

The vendors believe that

The electronics shop used to post P100,000-P150,000 a day in

Today, it's down to to P15,000-P30,000 a day. It all started when the Value

Added Tax was implemented," she says. She adds that the owners have no choice but to increase the

prices of their products. Because of higher prices, fewer people go to their stores, thus,

sales started to decline. Her boss was forced to close two of the three branches, keeping just the one in Divisoria.

Lydia Sandigan of Quezon Province, a frequent buyer in Divisoria, admits that she used to go to Divisoria twice a month.

Now, she only makes the trip from Quezon once a month.

There's no reason to go more than once because her store in Quezon is not doing that well either because of her customers' weaker purchasing power.

Noticeably, imitations branded clothes, footwear, bags, accessories and other items that flood the streets of Divisoria are

"I like it because it's cheap and it looks just like the original," Warren Adille, a student, says. Customers always look for sub-

stitutes to regular goods, all in the name of lower prices. "Pirated CDs and DVDs sell

more because these are cheaper than the original ones," he says.

November and December are the peak months for sales in Divi-

The summer months are the "The only products that sell are

the summer outfits-beach attires, beach walks and shades," says Ricky Manalo, a sales box. Clothes that are comfortable to

wear this summer like sandos and shorts are selling well at P35-P100 each. Toward June, sales of school supplies, such as ball pens, pen-

cils, papers, notebooks and bags sell well in Divisoria. Prices may go up and down but one thing is constant: Divisoria

will remain a key economic indicator of the health of the Philip-

Independent directors

IN THIS SEASON OF ANNUAL stockholders' meetings, some corporations do not have a free hand in deciding on the composition of their boards of directors.

The general rule is, the stockholders can elect as director anyone among them who owns at least one share of stock and is not laws from taking on that job.

That right, however, is restricted for corporations that, under our laws, are required to sit one or more independent directors in their boards.

An independent director is "a person who, apart from his fees and shareholdings, is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could, or could reasonably be perceived to, materially interfere with his exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his

responsibilities as a director." In 2002, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued a circular that, enumerates the six characteristics a person should NOT have to qualify him for the

position of independent director. The bottom line is: He has no personal, financial or professional ties with the corporation or its affiliares and subsidiaries that may adversely affect his ability to act objecrively in the performance of has duties and responsibilities as director.

To date, nine kinds of corporations are required to elect "outsiders" in their boards.

These companies are engaged in the sale and distribution of securities or financial instruments that promise possible good returns.

The list of securities-related companies includes:

 Issuers of securities (such as, stocks, bonds and debentures) that are registered with the SEC;

· Stock and other securities exchanges: Public companies, or those

with assets of at least P50 million and having 200 or more holders who each hold at least 100 shares of a class of stocks.

 Brokers and dealers of securities; and

 Subsidiaries or branches of foreign corporations in the Philippines whose securities are listed in the local stock exchange.

The issuers of registered securities and public companies should have no less than two independent directors or at least 20 percent of its board membership, whichever is lesser.

Por stock exchanges, the magic

orporate 💰 ecurities Info Raul J. Palabrica

disqualified by law or their by- number is three, in addition to an independent director-president.

Rounding up the roster of companies that are obliged to elect independent directors are finance companies, investment houses, investment companies and preneed companies.

An investment house is engaged in the business of underwriting (or guaranteeing the distribution and sale) of securities of other parties, while an investment company invests, reinvests or trades in secundes.

Except for issuers of registered securities, public companies and stock exchanges, the rest of the companies mentioned are required to elect at least one independent director in their boards.

If these companies are in the mood to go beyond the minimum, they are most welcome.

By requiring the election of independent directors, the law seeks to minimize the incidence of fraudalent conduct in the board rooms of the companies mentioned.

The "outsider" director is meant to call the attention of his peers if he thinks anyone of them or the company uself is veering away from the path of good corporate governance.

The qualifications of independent directors are: Aside from the standard requirement of owning at least one share of stock, he should, at the minimum, be a coilege graduate or has been engaged or exposed to the business of the corporation for not less than five years.

He should also be person of integrity or problty, and is hardworking.

The companies required to put independent directors in their boards are not the run-of-the-mill

For the fees that they will pay these directors, these companies will not be content with persons who meet the minimum requirements for the job.

The country is not lacking in men and women who can add value to the corporation without losing sight of the purpose for which the law requires them to be placed in the board. Feedback at rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feetback: inquirer it name/age/dity/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Leo Magno

IT exec sees two technologies changing industry

By Leo Magno

TWO TECHNOLOGIES ARE CHANGING the way information is set and managed across the enterprise, and these will dic-. tate how the IT industry will evolve in

This, at least, is how Joe Tucci sees it. Tucci-president, chair and CEO of EMC Corp.—has successfully led his company's transformation from a storage company to an information infrastructure firm. He now sees two more technologies radically changing his company and the IT industry in general.

Tucci calls them "game-changing" technologies, and these are "virtualization"

"I personally believe that in the near future, all hardware and software products will be virtualized. The entire data center infrastructure will be virtualized," he said.

Virtualization is the setup of a network's resources-like storage, computing power, applications, database and other services—such that the components of the network can be accessed even though they are not physically or geographically in the same location. They could all be connected despite being apart, creating a virtual network which the user would see as a whole without caring about the physical location of the resources because they can still be accessed as if they were in one

The second "game-changing" technolo-

gy according to 'Rucci is the use of "smarts" as flexible as possible, "he says, or software agents in servers performing EMC, he says, has shown much reor software agents in servers performing intelligent system-related actions. This is all lined up toward the use of web services, a model based method of conduct ing operations on a network using specific services that are called upon by the client from the server over the web.

"Smarts will change IP-based networking," says Tucci. "Servers are becoming more intelligent."

In preparation for such "game-changing" technologies that might affect the IT industry, Tucci says EMC is investing \$1.2 billion a year in research and develop-

"We need to follow the inflection points and be prepared for changes, and become

silience in the face of such changes and industry upheavals. From 1991 to 2002, EMC was known as a storage company. From 2003 to 2005 the company adjusted to industry changes and became a storage and information management firm. Today, says Tucci, EMC has become an information infrastructure company.

The change is reflected in the company's revenue mix. In 2000, EMC's business was comprised of 74 percent systems or hardware, 16 percent software and 10 percent services. In 2005, systems and hardware represented only 47 percent of EMC's business, while the software side grew to 37 percent and the services side

Tucci also cites the results of a survey from Morgan Stanley conducted January 2006, which showed that the top 10 technology spending priorities of ClOs today are software security, network security, storage area networks, wireless LAN, storage software, portal software, VolP, IT training, storage hardware and business intelligence.

"EMC is in the market of five out of these 10 top priorities of CIOs, and that's where we'll continue developing our products and retain our focus," says Tucci. It's all about building the information infrastructure, It's information at the core, not just storage, and we'll continue to fo-

cus on that."





SMBs GUIDE TO **BUYING PCS**

Whether buying your first PC or creating a network, your computer should be tailored to your company's needs. Below are the ton 10 things to consider when purchasing PCs

1. Why do you need this computer?

Knowing how the PC will be used as a good way to determine the right PC for your

2. Beware of refurbished computers

Although upgrading components to extend your computer's life may superficially cost less than a ready-made computer, it can be less reliable and may cost more in the long run.

3. Laptop or Desktop?

If your employees constantly need access to company data on the go, laptops are the best solution. With wireless technology like Intel® Centrino® Duo, your employees can connect to the Internet in most international aurports and cafés.

4. Software-where to start?

Windows*, Macintosh OS*, and Linux* all have their strengths. Use what you are comfortable with, and what you need to accomplish your most important tasks

S. Extras?

If you plan on running professional programs or have some very specialized tasks, you may need to add extra components to your computer, such as a video card with graphics accelerator, digital cameras, web cams, etc.

6. Don't Skimp on Security!

You cannot afford to risk your business's data. Make sure your computer is powerfu. enough to run anti-virus software while not disrupting other programs.

7. Memory

For basic applications, you should have at least 256 Megabytes (MB) of RAM while you should have a manamum of 512MB for graphics programs. Basic word processing requires a hard drive that is 40Gigabytes (GB) but if you are dearing with a lot of images, music, or other large files, you should invest in at least 80GB

8. Power

Again, consider how the computer wil, be used. If you often use compute intensive programs or do a lot of mustitasking, then invest in the Inter® Pentium® D processor supporting Hyper-Threading Technology for desktop PCs. Meanwhile, the Intel® Centrino® Duo is the best bet for notebooks.

9. Cheaper isn't always better

Your computer is an investment that should provide three years of optimal performance for a desktop PC and two years for a notebook. It should also provide headroom and flexibility for new software or more demanding usage patterns over time. IT should be a long-term relationship, so select a company and brand you can trust

10. Don't be dazed by sales lingo

property of others.

Knowing a few essential PC terms will help you navigate through a sales puch. Get to know what you need in a PC before going to the store and buying one.

*Other names and brands may be claimed as the

Hyper-Threating Technology requires a computor system with an Intel® Pentium & D processor sup-porting ITI Technology and a HT Technology on abled chipset, BIOS and operating system. Performuce will very depending on the specific hardware and software you use. See www.intel.com/info/liyperturesday for more information metading details on which processors support IIT Technology.

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ASSIFIED



Republic of the Philippines Department of Education Region Y/I DIVISION OF SAMAR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Server, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites rearrance. Expellers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and forms excepts, so bid for the homeuniter contract.

GACHER MACHER AND AND	I TALL COLOR OF THE COLOR OF TH			
Civision of Samer	Mama of Contract	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Turation
Chapter R	Delivery and Supply of Elem, Tubles & Chairs	Value Springer	4.422,500.00	150 CD
Chesier 3	Delivery and Supply of Secondary AreaChillia	Various Secondary Schools	1,105,374.00	150 CD

Prospective biblions should possess a Coperiment of Trade and Industry (UTI) License applicable to the contract, term compated a similar contract with a value of at least 20% of the ASC and have tary personnel and equipment available for the implementation of the contract. The SAC will use non-discretionary passiful critists in the exclusion of eligibility documents. This will be done during the opening of bits and only those lound eligible will be entitled to the opening of their technical and tenuncial proposate.

DELIVERY SCHEME: "Door to door" delivery to recipient achdols

echadula of SIAC activities are as follows.

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BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE .
1 haustoe of Eligibility and Bid Forms	May 6.15, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 23, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m. DepEd, Division Office
St. Receipt and Opening of Blds	June 6, 2005 & 8,00 k.m. DepEd, Division Office

The SAC shall leave to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms and Sid terms upon their submission at the Division of Semar, their letter of application stiputating these submission dusters they are interested to Sid. Said decements shall only be whatsed upon payment of representations amount for the following:

Cluster € P4,400.00

Classics S - P1,100.00

The Department of Education, Division Office, Cathelogan, Samur Brough in BAC reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all bids, to amout the bidding process or declare railure of bidding at engine prior to contract award without thereby incurring any tability to the affected parties. (Sgd.) CAMBLO J. JABONETE

Charperson gads and Awards Committee (PD) - May 1, 2008)



PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

April 28, 2006 INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) COMPLETE SET OF SEG CIRCUIT BREAKER (DEAD TANK) WITH BATTERY CHARGER, BATTERY AND CONTROL PANEL.

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and Europe. Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled prequalification to bid is an outright disqualification for those bidders who

wants to join the bidding proper For more information please see/ contact Engr Flaul L. Canlas or Engr Agosto L. Ocumpo at PELCO II Office or distriumbiers at (045) 901-0865, 900-2650.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS PBAC Chairperson

(POI - April 30 6 May 1 2006)

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More Classified Ada

Angela Lagman Colmenares

Pencefully joined her Creator on April 25, 2006 at the age of 88.

Her bereaved husband Buenaventura Montelibano Colmenares, her children, Baby & Silas Salvador, Tiny & Tony Parcon, Nonoy & Mary Ann, Mila; her grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives request the pious reader to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

> Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Quezon cor. Zamora Sts., Hirugaran, Negros Occidental.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at the family massoleum after the 2:00 p.m. m at the Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Hinigaran.

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Statement of the same of the

First Philippine **Holdings Corporation**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation will be held on Monday, May 15, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Meralco Theater, Lopez Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City.

The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

- Call to Order
- 2. Proof of Required Notice
- 3. Determination of Quorum
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2005 Stockholders Meeting
- Reports of the Chairman & the President
- 6. Approval/Ratification of the December 31, 2005 Reports and the Audited Financial Statements
- 7. Ratification of the Acts of the Board, of the Executive Committee and of Management
- 8. Election of Directors Appointment of External Auditors
- 10. Other Matters
- 11. Adjournment

The deadline for submission of proxy is May 8, 2006. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. Registration will start at 2:00 p.m.

> (Sgd.) ENRIQUE I. QUIASON Corporate Secretary

(PDI-May 1, 2006)

DBITUARIES

JOSE "JOELAC" PARAS LACSAMANA, SR.

OF TARLAC CITY, CONCEPCION, TARLAC, AND MABALACAT, PAMPANGA

PAST DIRECTOR & VICE PRESIDENT, CENTRAL AZUCARERA DE TARLAC SUGAR PLANTERS ASSOCIATION PAST DIRECTOR & TREASURER, CENTRAL AZUCARERA DE TARLAC

PLANTERS COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATION Peacefully returned to his Creator on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Born June 10, 1912, he was preceded in death by his lowing wife, Gloria Pasion.

He is survived by his beloved children: Zenaida & Rene Caputong, Florente & Medy David, Jose, Jr. & Charity Sollman, Mansueta, Danilo & Aracell Ungson, Luis Redentor & Irma Alma Donato, his grandchildren: Rachelle Angelie & Ari Hakim, Rene Aldrin, Regina Aine & Matt Clements, Joseph Jason, Timothy James, Dylan Joseph & Judy Mineko, Karen Nina, Nicholas Joseph, Louis Joseph & Louise Gloria, great-grandchildren: Kobe Joseph, Mary Chloe, Bodhi Makana and Kai Abraham, and his sisters-inlaw: Enriqueta Mallari and Clara Pasion.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 88 Juan Luna St., Barangay Mahini in Tarlac City.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 am on Thursday, May 4, 2096 at the San Sebastian Cathedral. Interment will follow immediately at the Garden of Ascension, Barangay Tibag in Tarlac City.

His family, relatives and friends request the reader to pray to the eternal repose

In Loving Memory of the 1st Death Anniversary our beloved father,



Com. Casimiro " Nene " R. Madarang Jr.

who jorned his Creator last May 1, 2005

Holy Masses will be held at the following Churches:

Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila 7:00 a.m. / 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Convent of Perpetual Adoration, New Mamia 6:00 a.m.

"Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God laid for ma. I took His hand when I heard His call. I turned my back & left it all. I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or pray. Tasks left undone must stay that way, I found that peace at the close of day. If my parting has left a word, then fill it with remembered joy. Perhaps my time has seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hears, & share with me. God wanted me. He set me free.

The family requests relatives, friends & the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose & peace of his soul, Holy Masses will also be held at several Cebu City churches

"Come to Me, all you who ere weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28





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By Benjamin V. Afuang Contributor

Graces'

CONSISTENT FAVORITE among art collectors, sculptor-painter Fred Baldemor will excite the contemporary art scene once more dunng the inaugural exhibit of Artasia, a new gallery at SM Megamall, on May 5

Pursuing his themes of nudes, motherhood, and other figures, Baldemor extends his range to the near-classical figurative subjects that may have evolved from his paintings and drawings. (Baidemor forms his ideas on drawing paper or canvas quite independently, not even visualizing how they will look in ciay, should he choose to turn them into more soud pieces later. The sketches and paintings keep their own worth, but they probably have a "germmating" effect on Baldemor's future metal and stone pieces.)

His new collection has indefinitely sized but heavy scales. Especially notable for their substance and surface are his "Three Graces"-nudes in bronze-which show the form and mood of life in repose. Another bronze piece depicting a Mother and Child reveals al. that can be visually understood of nourishing love. The four bronze figures alone weigh more than 100 kilos

Baldemor's latest works in bronze and other "hard" materials definitely have "corrected" earner notions that sculpture was nothing but a dispassionate art form. In his more than 15 pieces, he succeeds at defining warmth in metal, jade, alabaster, and marble in the aght of their natural nues, while maintaining the figures' time-challenging strength and solidity. It's this "thought-cum-feeling" process that puts his new works in the stream of the New Figuration style that has excited the sculpture scene in many parts of the world.

Sculpture aficionados will remember Baidemor's wood and stone icons of the Via Crucis exhibited during Lent last year, and some wood and metal pieces in a New York City event a few months ago. They were immediately hailed as representing Baidemor's creativity at its peak. But his new works can easily dispute that, with evidence of the sculptor's new techniques and fresh direction, apart from his being in a more inspired mode now for finding an apt setting for the pieces in a new gallery. To paraphrase a rare quotation from Oliver Wendell Ho, mes, such a creative mind "stretched to a new idea" hardly returns to its original dimensions.

Like grandfather,

like granddaughter

Included in the exhibit are works by Balde mor's granddaughter, Emi Zoerya Baldemor-

Baldemor said two years ago, Emi Zoerya, then 2 years old, was watching him paint in his workshop in Pasig City. A little bit later the child begged him for some pencils and draw-ing paper. She said she wanted to draw "things" just like her "dada" (grandpa)

Pred could httle understand what was per colating in the child's mind then, but in his presence she began to produce dozens of ab stract" drawings which, Fred thought, could "amount to something" if laid down on can-

A few months later, Emi Zoerya began to







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LIFESTYLE

Fred Baldemor's 'warm' sculptures



tell his grandfather what she was drawing and painting on bigger pieces of paper and recycled canvas. She had turned into a real artist, creating from inner vision figurations in charcoal, ink and acrylic, with clarity and form. Fred promptly saw harmony, depth, and "feeling" in the various images she had sketched and painted. After seeing hundreds of her works, Fred was convinced she was creatively mature enough to clarify for herself the visual world she was growing up in.

Emi Zoerya's early works have since been presented abroad—in the 2004 Tianjen International Children's Painting competition; International Village in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2004; and a joint exhibit



"MEGASERIES," by Emi Zoerya

"BLACK Zip,"

by Tony Twigg

DUEMILA WIII pre-

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"ENSLAVED," by

Reakuyo

Ramon Rojo Realuyo

at Renaissance

"Pulp Dreams," an

exhibit of Ramon

works, runs until

May 2 at the Renals-

sance Gallery (4/L,

Megamall). The ex-

hibit showcases Re-

aluyo's earlier works

alongside fils new pieces, which fea-

ture a three-dimen-

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of pulp sculpture,

Rojo Realuyo's

Building A, SM

The exhibit will

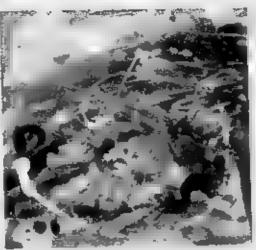
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Twigg at

21



She is an instant hit among collectors, those who simply adore a prodigy



with Fred Baldemor and her uncle, Walter Baldemor, at the Philippine Center in New York City last October. She had her first solo exhibit at Shangri-la Plaza in Mandaluyong in December 2004.

All those events have undoubtedly encouraged this young artist to visualize more, paint more, and put on more shows. Her works have been instant hits among collectors, particularly parents, and those who simply adore a prodigy.

On Friday, May 5, Emi Zoerya joins her grandfather in the show "Zoe (Gift of God)," where more than 60 of her new works, along with Fred's 15 major pieces of sculpture, will be on exhibit

Artasia is on the fourth floor of Megamali.

VISUAL ARTS

"THREE Graces,"

by Fred Baldemor

"MIDSUMMER," by Cid Reyes

Cid Reyes at West

Artist-critic mounts his 12th solo exhibit, "Midsummet," on May 4 at the West Gallery in SM Magamall. The exhibit features his recent abstractions inspired by poems celebrating nature and summer. The works are characterized by splashes of britiliant colors and expressionist brushstrokes that conjure the spirit of the season. The show runs till May 16.

Various works at Ricco Renzo

Ricco Renzo Galleries & Caffe is holding "Texttures and Landscapes," which features the works of Tony Alcasid, Paulino Garda Jr., and Gerry Ingco. Alcasid, a banker by profession, has a passion for mixed media. Garcia, a corporate executive, is an impressionist at heart with a factivist bent. Ingco is an abstract tactile painter whose austere bronze tones and strokes tail a story with its varying rhythms. Ricco Renzo Galleries & Caffe is at the LR1 Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel Air 2, Makati, Call 8982542/43 or visit www.rlccorenzo.com for details.

Flower show at UP Vargas

in celebration of the summer month of May, the UP Varges Museum brings together artworks focusing on flowers as subject. These are made by various artists in different styles and Interpretations. Mona and Cris Cruz are two of the more renowned artists who made names for themselves painting flowers. The exhibition will be highlighted by a Flores de Mayo on May 28, featuring fashion created by past and present members of the Young Designers Guild. The exhibit runs until June 4 The project is assisted by Avellana Art Gallery



Large work at Artists-Run

SANDRA Fabie-Gfelier's large-scale "Learn to Float" will hang at the Artists-Run Independent Art Space (3/F Suite 318-A, LR) Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St. [formarly Reposo]. Bel Air 2, Makati), on April 26-May 10, Cali

Beltran at Finale

Opening on May 5 at the Finals Art File (4/F LaO Center, Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave., Makati City) is Pol Beltran's "Brown Race Rules!" Delving into the Filipinos' relationship with the Catholic faith, the exhibit features, among others, a series of 45 photographs of the "crucifixion" the artist took in Pampanga during the Haly Week. Beltran explores how a traditional symbolic event is ritualized and transformed into the inanity of a speciacle. Call 6132310 or 6125034

Leano at West

ERWIN Leafio presents "Familiar Territories," until May 2, at West Gallery, 4/L, Bidg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The exhibit highlights Leano's fascination with architecture, pianes and colors. Call 6341284.



Ongoing until May 6 at the Avellana Art Gallery are three simultaneous exhibits. Plage Reyes' "24 Hours" presents the artist's monolithic sculptural pleces in cement which are his interpretations of measured time. Eugene Jarque's "Surface Tension" illustrates the tensions and motions of amorphous shapes and furious gesturing on the flat, smooth surface of metal. Gus Albor's "Lason" is an abstract investigation of texture and the consequence of color against nonconventional canvas such as an office folder. Avellana Art Gallery is located at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St.,

Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy) Call



EUGENE Jarque

Oronos at Genesis



"BLUE Jar Series 4,"

Ed Otis Oronos presents his second solo exhibit, "A Window to Her Realm." which opens on May 5 at Gallery Genesis, 4/L, Bidg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The exhibit presents visual contexts of the various roles of women in society. The exhibit runs until May 18. Call 6338137-

by Ed Otis Oronos

Pettyjohn, Ching at Mag:Net Hanna Pettylohn presents "The Elaborate Nest Between Child and Breast," May 4-31, at Mag: Net Gallery, ABS-CBN Center, QC. The exhibit features

a composite installation of found objects and forms produced by Pattylohn, Call 4100995. Meanwhile, Martano Ching presents "Between the Stars and the Sea," until May 6, at Mag Net Gallery, G/F, Passo Center, Maketi. The exhibit leatures installation exhibit of paintings, prints and objects. Call 81 77895.

Cainglet at Art Center

Henri C. Cainglet will hold an exhibit of sculptures and paintings, "Of Butterfiles and Water," on May 5 at Art Center, SM Megamali, 4/F, Bidg. A, Mandainyong. The exhibit runs until May 21

Artjam at LA Workshop Gallery

"Artiam for Streetidds" is ongoing until May 17 at LA Workshop Gallery, 66 G. Puyal St., BF Homes, Phase 1, featuring works by Kenneth Meva; Christian Mirang, Jun Alfon, Dan Libor, Carlo Magno, William Yu, Arnel Borja, Toody Racuya and Ray



STUDENTS of Ayala Museum's Mentoring Program under Gig de Pio recently launched an end-of-workshop exhibit at the Glass Half Gallery of the Museum dubbed "AM Figura." The exhibit features select artworks of the students, ranging from human figures to portraits. The exhibit runs until May 7.

Nominations now accepted for Ateneo art awards

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2006 Ateneo Art Awards, which are presented by the Areneo Art Gallery together with Metro Society, Rockwell Land and Power Plant Mall.

Established in 2004 to honor the memory of the Gallery's founding benefactor, Pernando Zobel de Ayala (1924-1984), the awards are bestowed upon three Pilipino visual artists, 35 years of age or under, who have made an outstanding and significant contribution to the definition and development of modern and contemporary art based upon a solo or group exhibition in any public venue held between May 2,

2005, and May 1, 2006. conceptualized or curated by the Areneo gallery and staff within their own premises

will not be considered. neo Art Awards jury, public gallery directors (commercial and noncommercial), professional visual artists and art educators residing in the Philippines. The nominated visual artist must be a Filipino citizen, aged 35 years old or below on or be-

fore May 31 Visual artists working or residing overseas are qualified provided that they possess Filipino citizenship. The visual artist must have had a solo or group exhibition in the 12 months preceding May 1 where the artworks submitted for consideration had

All nomination forms must be accompanied by visual documentation in eather of the following formats: JPEG, AVI, WMV, MPEG, MOV, SWF and other PC-compatible formats in CD, 35-mm stide transparencies or 5R photographs.

Deadline for submission of nomination forms is on May 31.

The 2006 Areneo Art Awards Jury is composed of Ramon E.S. Lerma, curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery; Pr. Rene Javellana, S.J., director, Ateneo Fine Arts Program; Gienna Aquino, managing editor of Metro Society and former deputy director of the Museo ng Kalinangang Pihpino, Cuitural Center of the Philippines; Patrick Flores, curator, National Museum; Alice Guillermo, professor emeritus, University of the Philippines-Diliman; Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez, curatorial consultant, Lopez Memorial Museum, Patrick Reyno, trustee, Asian Cultural Council-Philippines and art Works by artists appearing in exhibitions collector; Jose Tence Ruiz, visual artist and curator, and Ditas Samson, curator of the Ayala Museum.

The Ateneo Art Awards will be an-Nominations will be taken from the Ate-nounced at a formal ceremony at the Rockwell Tent on Aug. 8, following an exhibition of the works of the short-listed artists, Aug. 1-6, at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City, titled "2006 Ateneo Art

Awards: Outbound."

"Outbound" also focuses attention on the Ateneo Art Gallery Sydney Studio Residency Grant, which provides one of the three Ateneo Art Awardees with round-trip aufare, accommodation and a work studio for three weeks, an allowance, as well as an invitation to exhibit at the Cross Art Projects, a leading alternative art space in the

Last year, Roland Ventura received the

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Ateneo Art Gallery website, gallery.ateneo.edu, Call 4266488 or e-mail cchikiamco@ateneo.edu.

US conference on arts and disability

A FIVE-MEMBER PHILIPPINE DELEGATION will attend the VSA Arts International Conference in Washington, DC, on June 9-10. The conference is a gathering of professionals in the arts, education and disability fields.

VSA Arts International was founded by Jean Kennedy Smith in 1974. It has 80 organization affiliates worldwide, including VSA Arts Philippines Inc.

The VSA Arts International is a nonprofit, nongovernment organization promoting artistic excellence and learning opportunities for adults and children with disabilities.

VSA Arts Phils. Inc. executive director Rebecca M. Santos leads the delegation with communications coordinator Ofelia Silang, community advocator Rizalinda Sanchez, craft arnst Ma. Luisa Paje Luengco, and Adelaida B. Reyes from the Department of Education's Special Education Supervision.

St. Francis School-VSA Arts Phils. Inc. has been showcasing the accomplishments of students with disabilities, and also promoting access to the arts for people with disabilities. VSA Arts is an affiliate of Kennedy Center in the US capital.

Malang works

Women figures remain at the core of Malang's art. Over the years, he has kept sketchbooks in which he tests different designs before committing them to canvas or paper. The sketchbooks serve as drawing boards of Malang, who is always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new materials.

He may have been more popular for his generous use of bright, happy colors, but he also never underestimates the appeal of black-and-white drawings.

Malang feels his body of work is never complete, and that is why he still keeps painting and sketching.

Finishing larger works is his biggest challenge today. "Kidang sa practice," he says, explaining he has concentrated on mostly small works in recent years, Malang, though, is quick to rise to the challenge. To

him, constant practice is the only way to go. And the energy and the enthusiasm he devotes to every piece can be seen in his vibrant colors and animated brushstrokes. "Paintings and Drawings" formally opens at 6 p.m. to-

morrow. Call 4114336 or 4119221.



"YENDORS"

Tuesday Group pays tribute to Marian month

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos Contributor

AY IS THE MONTH OF flowers and the Virgin Mary It's also the month of the Santacruzan processions, in which the women brave the infernal heat in order to parade in elaborate gowns to dramatize the historic discovery of the Cross by St. Helene, the mother of the emperor Constantine, an elaborate dramatization that has captured the popular religious imagination across the centuries.

Not all Catholics, however, express their Marian devotion through the flores de mayo or the Santacruzan. The Tuesday Group of artists, so named because the members meet every Tuesday to sketch and to discuss art currents, honors Mary through an exhibit dubbed "Contemporary Manan Expressions."

The show, co-presented by the Manua Archdiocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (MACC), will open tomorrow at 5: 30 p.m. the Manila Archdiocesan Museam on the third floor of the Arzobispado in Intramuros.

It is fitting that the group pay tribute to the woman who is hailed, just like Tuesday's child, as "full of grace." Indeed the exhibit showcases the graceful results of their labors. In a collection consisting of Mother and Child genre works and varied images

Exhibit to open at Arzobispado de Manila museum

of the Filipino woman, not only do they extol the purity and poignance of motherly love, but pay homage to womankind as well.

The montage, which may also serve as advanced Mother's Day treat, features pieces by Angel Cacnio, Jun Martinez, Elmer Gernale, Ton Raymundo, Al Perez, Menchu Arandilla, Ferdie Cacnio, Loreto

Racuya, Fernando Sena, Erme Patriclo, Nards Miranda, Bing Stochi, Mardomo Cempron, Nick Masangcay, Rona Chua, Waldz Vilianueva and

The Tuesday Group of Artists used to meet for sketching sessions every Wednesday at the NCC Bunding under the late Dean José Joya. After Joya's death in 1995, some members organized themselves and continued meeting every Tuesday. They now hold sketching sessions every Tuesday afternoon at the CBCP Canteen in Intramaros. The weekly sessions give art enthusiasts the chance to sit with 30 or more artists and take home 15



"MOTHER and Child," by Angel Cacnio



"MOTHER and Child," by Nards Miranda



TUESDAY group sketching session

artworks at very friendly prices.

In connection with the exh.bit, the commission is also sponsoring a series of lectures on the visua, representations of Mary.

Rev. Fr. Isidro C. Abaño, O.P., director of the the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Museum of Arts and Sciences, will speak on "Philippine Iconography of Mary", and Professor Regalado Trota José, renowned author, historian and lecturer in the Cultural Heritage Studies program of UST, will lecture on "The Virgin in Philippine Ivory Art."

The lectures will be held May 3,

4.30 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Arzobispado de Manila, Intramuros, Manila Attendance is hinted. Call 5245062 for reservations.

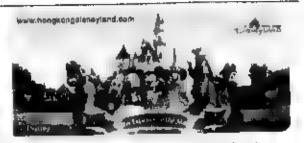
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Women figures remain at the core of his art. And despite his generous use of bright, happy colors, he never underestimates the appeal of black-and-white drawings





Malang works fill four showrooms

ALANG, SHOWING NO SIGNS OF slowing down, fills all the four exhibition showrooms at the Mary Sanbition showrooms at the Mary Santos Artcade on West Ave., Quezon City, with his exhibit, "Paintings and Drawings," which opens May 2. On view until May 20 are about 90 works, showcasing Maiang's diverse interests and skill in using different media.

It is no surprise that Malang can come up with such a large number of works, enough to fill up all the gallery space in the New Mary Santos Artesda, named after his late wife and

Santos Artcade, named after his late wife and launched last year as a multipurpose venue for different art forms, such as paintings,

sculptures, prints and drawings.

The show also marks the first time a solo artist is holding an exhibit in all the four exhibition showrooms.

"Paintings and Drawings" features old and new works, some dating as far back as the 1990s. At the main gallery (West Gallery) are Malang's larger pieces in oil, acrylic, gouche and charcoal

The three smaller exhibition showrooms will feature Malang's creative versatility and openness to different materials, such as gouche, the medium which he is most at ease; charcoal, ink and acrylic; and oil pastels and soft pastels.



"THREE Women"

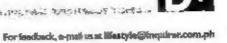
MALANG/ C2



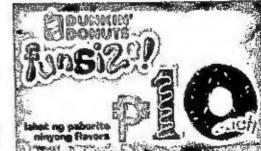
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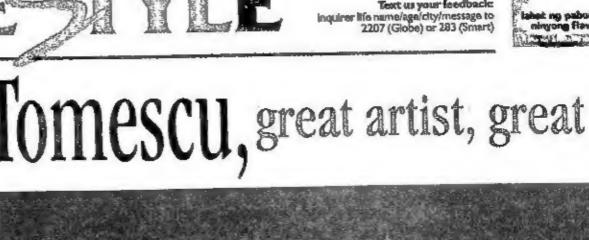


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Pinay pianist wins top US prize

VIOLINIST Alexandru Tomescu with pianist Mary Anno

HIYAS ALEJO HILA, A FIRST year student in the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in Piano Performance at University of Minnesota's School of Music, bagged top prizes in several piano competitions in Minnesota, US.

On April 23, Hila won the first prize in piano, graduate division, at the 83rd Annual Scholarship Competition of the Schubert Club of Min-

In February, she took the second prize in the Elinor Bell Piano Competition. In December, she was one of three winners in the University Concerto Competitions participated in by over 30 students majoring in different instruments.

She was also the first recipient of the University's Centennial Piano Fellowship given to an incoming student who gives an outstanding performance in live audition.

She will perform her winning piece, Mozart's Piano Concerto in A Major, K 488, with the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra on May 5, at the Ted Mann

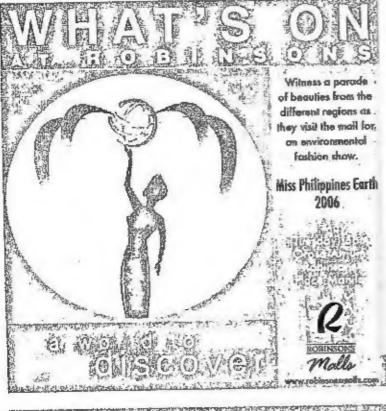


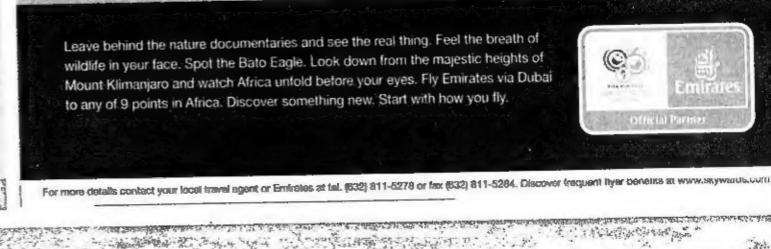
HIYAS Alejo Hila

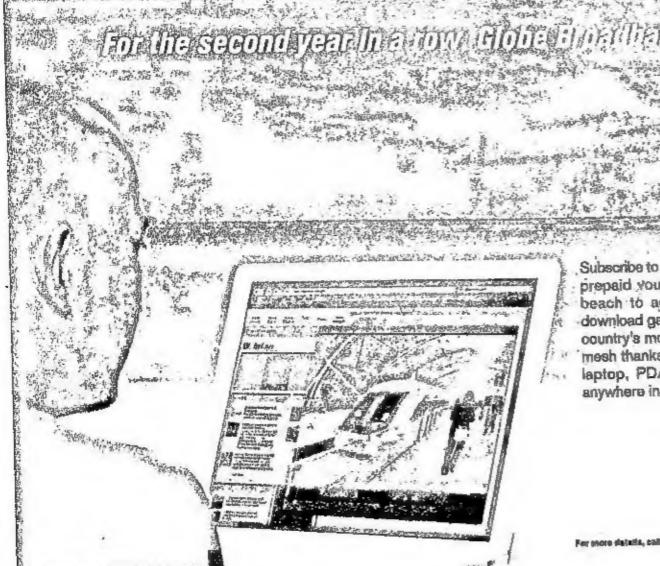
Immediately after her performance, she will proceed to the Olson Campus Center of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, to perform in a winners' concert.

A Quimson Fellow of the Asian Cultural Council, Hila studies with Leventritt and Leeds Competition winner, professor Lydia Artymiw.

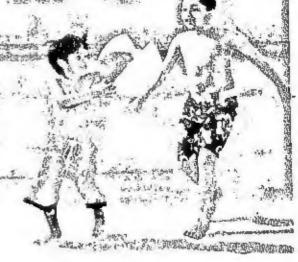








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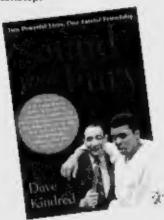


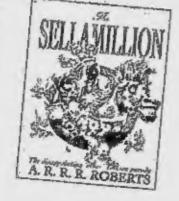
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You can also visit www.globelines.com.ph ("Blanderd NDD rates may apply to calle made from other carriers.)

New readings

ed the leadership interest at the

"Seliamillion" by Adam Roberts is a parody of JRR Tolkien's famous trilogy. With an experimental version of the "Lord of the Rings" in the style of "Dr. Sauss," this book will surely have you laughing nonstop.





David Kindred's "Sound of Fury: The Parallel Lives and Fateful Friendship of Muhammad All and Howard Cosell" recounts the unlikely alliance between the ultimate odd couple, sportscaster Howard Cosell and heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali.

"Prisoner in the Garden: Opening Neison Mandela's Prison Archive" provides a compelling insight into the elder statesman's 27 years in the Robben Island prison.





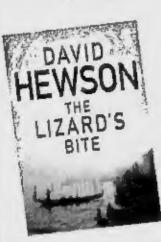
Danielle Steele's new novel, "The House," brilliantly captures one woman's courageous choice to pour herself into a dream-end receive the gifts in

Rich in detail, rollicking in style and endlessly engaging, James Morrow's "The Last Witchfinder," is a tour de force of historical fiction as it goes back to Restoration England and tells the story of a woman who will not rest until she outs the last witchfinder out of



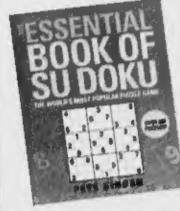
Celia Dart-Thornton brings us the second book of The Crowthistle Unronicies. "The Well of Tears introduces us to Jewel, a beautiful maiden who is left with the promise of true love and a power-

Jackie Collins' "Lovers and Players" is a highly charged love story about family relationships, deadly choices and dangerous sex.



"The Lizard's Bite" by David Hewson delves into the shadowy world that lies beneath Venice's sparkling façade - a world where the usual rules do not apply.

A page-turning, highly accomplished thriller about a secretary in search for the truth after the death of her boss whom she is madly in love with, "Sunstroke" by Jesse Kellerman, marks the emergence of one of the most distinctive new voices in the



With more than 200 puzzles created especially for this book, "The Essantial Book of Su Doku" is a deceptively simple and completely addictive number-placement game. It will surely bring hours of fun to first-time players as well as to those who have already fallen under its spail.

The books are available at PowerBooks Specialty Store, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99). Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334/5243448).

LIFESTYLE

National Artist Tiempo names fellows to Dumaguete workshop

ATIONAL ARTIST FOR Manila. Literature Edith L. Tiempo, co-founder and director of the National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete City, has announced the list of Writing Fellows for the 45th edition of the longest-running writing workshop in the country.

For poetry, the fellows are Darwin Chiong and Michellan Kristine Sarile of De La Salle University, Andrea Teran of Ateneo de Manila University, and Ana Escalante Neri of UP

For creative nonfiction, they are Patricia Evangelistà of UP Diliman and Noel Pingoy of

Davao Medical Center. For short fiction, the fellows are Douglas James Candano and Antonio Adrian Habana of Ateneo de Manila, Erika Jean Cabanawan of UP Los Bafios, Larissa Mae Suarez of Philippine High School for the Arts, and Dominique Cimafranca of University of San

Sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and coordinated

by the Dumaguete Literary Arts Service Group (or Dula, Inc. headed by Ernesto Superal Yee), the workshop will be held at the CAP Building in Dumaguete City May 8-26.

Among the panelists expected to assist Tiempo are Dumaguete-based writers Yee, Bobby Viliasis and Cesar Ruiz Aquino, as well as guest panelists Rowena Torrevillas from the University of Iowa, R. Zamora Linmark from Honolulu and San Francisco, NCCA Literature Committee chair Lito Zulueta, Gémino H. Abad, Marjorie Evasco, Susan Lara, DM Reyes, Anthony Tan and Krip Yuson.

15 fellows to 13th Iligan National Writers Workshop

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (NCCA), Mindanao Creative Writers Group, Inc., and MSU-ITT Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE) announce the 15 writing fellows to the 13th Iligan National Writers Workshop on May 22-25 in Iligan City.

Fiction in English: Anna Felicia C. Sanchez, Marikina City; Catherine C. Bucu, Caloocan City; Monica S. Macansantos, Baguio City; Erwin A. Martinez, Caloocan City; and Romel Tomaring Villaflor, Cotabato City. All the fellows for fiction in English are from the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Other fellows in fiction: Piya Cruz Constantino (UP Diliman), fiction in Filipino; Josua S. Cabrera (University of Cebu), fiction in Cebuano; Hermenigildo A. Sanchez (Catbalogan, Samar) fiction in Waray; and Linda Cababa Espinosa (Western Mindanao State University), fiction in

Poetry in Filipino: Mark Anthony Angeles, Manila (PUP); Carlos M. Piocos III, Quezon City (UP Diliman); Reggy C. Figer, Tacloban City (UP Diliman); and Hilda Rosca Nartea, Quezon City (UP Diliman).

Other fellows in poetry: Greg Fernandez (University of Cebu), poetry in Cebuano; and Lester Mark P Carnaje, Ilodo City (West Visayas State University), poetry in Hiligaynon.

Panelists this year are Rosario Cruz Lucero, Erlinda Kintanar Alburo, Merlie M. Alunan, Jaime An Lim, Steven Patrick C. Pernandez, Leoncio P. Deriada, and Michael U. Obenieta, 1996 writing fellow of the 3rd INWW and keynote speaker this year. Workshop director is Christine Godinez Ortega.

The 12th INWW proceedings, The State of Constant Beginnings," edited by Godinez-Ortega and published by the MSU-IIT OVCRE, will be launched during the last day of the

CAN YOU SEE THIS PICTURE AS A CHILDREN'S STORY? Then join the 2006 Romeo Forbes Children's Storywriting Competition. The winner will receive P30,000. The winning story may also be published as a full-color children's storybook. Visit www.canvas.ph for details.

Book tackles Filipino family's 15-year stay in China

ANVIL PUBLISHING, INC., AND THE depth and breadth. We made regular sojourns technic Institute and State University in the launching of the book, "Beyond the Great Wall," at National Bookstore, Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong at 6 p.m., May 5.

The book is a selection of personal essays on China, the Chinese and being Filipino. It is written by UP professor, writer and poet, Mario Ignacio Miclat, his wife Alma, and daughters Maningning and Banaue. The essays tackle their 15-year sojourn in China from 1971 to 1986, covering the periods of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, the death of Premier Zhou Enlai, the downfall of the Gang of Four, and the reforms initiated by "paramount leader," Deng Xiaoping.

Miclat, in his preface, says: "For 15 years, my family of native Filipinos lived in the shadows of the Great Wall. All through 1971 to 1986, we experienced the Middle Kingdom in

Maningning Miclat Art Foundation announce to different places, many of which were re- Blacksburg, Virginia, USA, on May 25. Signstricted not only to foreigners but also to the ing tours are also scheduled for New York and ordinary Chinese. We were privileged to see a world beyond the Great Wall."

The book contains the authors' personal essays on the arts, culture, the economy, politics and society arranged under four headings; situating the family, searching for self, reversing the diaspora, and finding the nation.

Alma Miclat is SVP of Data Center Design Corporation in Makati. Meanwhile, Bapaue is a film and theater actress who is graduating in June with a Master of Fine Arts in Acting at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Maningning was a multi-awarded artist, poet and writer in Filipino, English and Chinese.

The book will also be launched at the Cranwell International Center of Virginia Poly-

San Diego in spring.

Published by Anvil Publishing, Inc., royalties and proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, Inc. (MMAFI), a non-stock, nonprofit organization. The MMAFI has been holding the Maningning Miclat Trilingual Poetry Competition during odd-numbered years and the Maningning Miclat Art Competition during even-numbered years.

This year, MMAFI will hold the art competition for visual artists 28 years old and below with the grand prize winning P28,000 and a glass sculpture trophy by Ramon Orlina. Email maningningfoundation@gmail.com, acmiclat2004@yahoo.com www.maningning.com for details.

Tonight, these love verses will live in your skin

By Ralph Semino Galán Contributor

IN HIS THIRD BOOK OF POETRY. "Pulotgata: The Love Poems" (Anvil Publishing, 88 pages), Danton Remoto delves the depths of the human heart through lyrics in

English and Filipino that sing of the anxiety and the excitement, the agony and the ecstasy which accompany the act of love.

REVIEW The joy of loving and the consummation of desire are celebrated in "Tonight I Will Live in Your Skin," (inspired by Pablo Neruda's penultimate love poem in "Veinte poemas de amor y una cancion desesperada"), "Water," "Fire and ice," "Autumn,"
"Room," "Black Silk Pajamas," "Song of the
Flute," "Destination," "Dawn," "The Seat of Love," "The Ring" and "Sky."

Meanwhile, the pain of parting and the power of memory to redeem those special moments, which otherwise would be lost to oblivion, are articulated in the following pieces: "Childhood," "Burning Season," Chairs," "Snowstorm," "Departure," "Rain," "Stairway," "In Tagaytay," "Winter," "All the Clichés," "At Bellarmine" and "Song of Ru-

The poems in Pilipino, whether of the first or second persuasion, are more precise and direct, penetrating the heart of the matter with the sharpest of inquiries and insights:

"ano kayang bitag! Ang itinatago ng buhay! para sa akin?//" ["Pagdkillim 1"]; "ibig maging buhangin/upang masaruyan/kahit min-

san man lamang/ng kanyang talampakan// ("Baier, na Bayan Niya"); "Pag-ibig ay tinig na tila sagwan/humahati sa dagat ng kawalan/ = ["Hindi Kinang ng Buwan"]; "tinipong hininga ng mga mangingibig!—/at sandaling inisip/ang karahasan ng pag-asa" ["Kabalyero"]; "Ikaw//na iniwan akong naglisa,/walang kaibigan//o kasama,/kundi mga wikeng dayuhan//at paibaiba//" ["Wika"].

There is a seeming simplicity in Remoto's poetry in his choice of words and images. He does not employ verbal fireworks. Nor does he rely on arcane and orphic tropes that confuse the reader into believing that something profound is being revealed. Instead, he uses carefully selected metaphors

and similes to convey his thoughts and feel-

Image-based

Imagism has had a very strong influence on Remoto's versifying, via Amygism (after Amy Lowell, who published the three-volume anthology "Some Imagist Poets") and the Bagay poetry espoused by Rolando Tinio and

A close reading of the poems will reveal that they conform to most of the guiding principles of Imagism/Amygism, "that poetry should render particulars exactly and not deal in vague generalities, however magnificent and sonorous," and that "concentration is of the very essence of poetry."

The image-making of Remoto is best described as elemental, evoking connections between the male body and the natural world, between powerful emotions and stark details of flora and fauna.

Here are some examples: "My breath will begin by flowering! in the caves of your

ears]/" ["Tonight I Will Live in Your Skin"]; "I will be the Falls of Dochart hurtling Itself/down the hills of Breadalbane,/the rocks rumbling with my cascading force//["Water"]; "Water slides down/the leaves/like tongue on skin" ["Rain"]; "Swans skimmed the skin/of your surface/" ["Winter"]; "summer's thunder/lighting up the sky/oh heat thick/as desire/" ["The Way We Live"]; "My fingers brushing against/the ferns in the mountain! of your hair//" ["Destination"]; "your lips brushing//like a butterfly's wing/against my lips/ ["Dawn"].

Among the poems in Filipino with strong imagism are: Duhat na hinog ang mga mata ng gabi" ["Gabi"]; "tila mga ibong hapo/na humahapon sa pugad/ng iyong pusa//* ["Kaarawan"]; "So oming likuran,/ong mgo sanga/ay nagiging kandila./May talab/ang kanilang lagablah//" ["Ang Tawag"]; "Matang may kubling/Aungkot,/mga salitang maigsi/manipis pa/sa hugis-suklay na buwan// ["Simula"]; At ang lyong mga ритараdaliri'y/naglalakbay, sok_nawawala/sa mga ulan ng aking

buhok// ["Pulorgata"]. There is also a sense of immediacy to Remoto's love lyrics, for almost all of the poems are written in the present or present perfect tense. Hence, the presence of the persona, the controlling consciousness, permeates the scene of each poem, the objective situation,

even the spaces in between.

spirit.

Another interesting feature of Remoto's poetry is its capacity to transcend traditional gender barriers, despite its homosexual underpinnings. Except for a few homoerotic pieces, which some conscrvative readers might find rather offensive, most of the other poems are written in good taste, with the right amount of tenderness and tenacity of

Tomescu, great artist, great person

By Pablo A. Tariman Contributor

THE TALK OF THE TOWN IS the seamless performances of Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu at Philamlife Theater, Pasig Museum and St. James the Great Parish Church in Ayala-Al-

The violinist dazzled critics and lay music lovers alike and left the crowd teary-eyed over his rendition of Massenet's "Meditation" (from the opera "Thais"), which he had dedicated to the late Maestra Dalisay

To his audience, Tomescu was a prince of music.

What moved me was the report that Tomescu did not just Redentor Maestro Romero's grave for the ninth time at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina; he also brought along his expensive violin and played De Guzman's "Bayan Ko" and Massenet's "Meditation." When I told this to columnist Jullie Yap Daza, she felt her hair stand up.

Yes, Tomescu played those pieces a cappella in memory of



the Filipino musician who first introduced him to Filipino audi-

When he learned that his new Filipino fan, filmmaker Marilou Diaz Abaya, was observing her birthday recently, he disrupted his day-out to play the De Guzman and Massenet pieces for the celebrator. The director herself

was in tears during his performance at Philamlife Theater.

What Tomescu did to Romero and Ahaya showed that the musician is not just a great artist; he is also a great and generous

In Cagayan de Oro

How do you cope with a con- Peace Philharmonic Philip-

cert held in a mall's cinemahouse and with only an upright piano tasked to deliver a G Minor Mendelssohn concerto with a chamber orchestra?

Well, SM Cagayan de Oro City was the setting of the latest outreach concert of planist Ingrid Sala Santamaria and the

conductor Ariel Perez.

When audiences started coming in, some of them with popcorn, I told myself this concert should be called "Mozart and Mendelssohn In-Between Mouthful of Popcorn."

But my pessimism soon faded when I witnessed a very attentive audience listening to the three movements of the Mendelssohn concerto, which capped an afternoon of Mozart, Elgar and our very own Angel Pena (Prelude and Fugue on "Bahay Kubo") and Manuel Velez ("Sa Kabuki-

To be sure, the Mercedes upright piano had seen better days and even if the comparison was out of the question, an electronic piano would have fared better.

But Santamaria refused to be fazed by a bad upright. She actually played on it as though it were a Steinway grand. The molto allegro con fuoco and andante movements materialized without major mishap, and the end of the presto movement was greeted with a

pines Chamber Players led by standing ovation and a clamor for an encore.

The PPP Chamber Players was at its best. This was one concert recommended by Marissa Fernan of SM Cebu to SM Cagayan de Oro mall manager Paul Ferrer, and the result was sheer magic.

In the post-concert reception, this non-shopper admitted to Ferrer that art and commerce could actually blend beautifully. I witnessed this happen in SM Cagayan de Oro

In this SM setting, shoppers can actually watch the concert for free, if they can show purchase receipts worth P1,000.

That music lovers in Cagayan de Oro came en masse after shopping to watch a Mendelssohn concerto is my latest encounter with classical music in an unlikely setting.

"If you open the eyes of young audiences to classical music by shopping, then these concerts are all worth our time," said pianist Santamaria, who seems to have introduced a new era of live orchestral music in the Visayas.



ADVENTIST Chamber Orchestra with Jonathan Arevalo Coo, Ingrid Santamaria, Evelyn Ronquillo (College of Music) and Olive Tolentino (University Publications)

cerpts from GTF plays. The 29th season plays include the four clas-

Gantimpala holds auditions

THE GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION (GTF) will hold auditions on May 18 (Actors Company) and May 19 (general), 2-7 p.m., at the Rehearsal Hall of Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila.

The auditions signify the start of GTF's 29th season, said Tony S. Espejo, founding president and artistic director.

The newly elected GTF board of trustees are Ed Murillo, Roobak Valle, Perry Dizon, Bil-

ly Parian and Len-Ag Santos-Siasoco. Auditioners could either be male or female, ages 18-50 years old, with pleasing personality, with stage experience preferred but not required, and fluent in Filipino and English.

They must bring a resumé, a 2" x 2" color

photograph, and must be ready to perform ex-

sics-"Florante at Laura," "Kanser (Noli Me Tangere)," "El Pilibusterismo," "Ibong Adarna"-and the fourth season of the GTF National Artist Production series featuring "Forever/Call Me Flory," stage plays written by Wilfrido Maria Guerrero, National Artist for

GTF's TheatreNow will also be producing "Ang Tahanan ni Bernarda Alba," "Sub-text," and "Si Tunying at ang Mahiwagang Libro ng Kasaysayan," a children's musical by José Victor Torres about time traveling.

Call 5365860 or 5280603.

Adventist summer music festival

THE ADVENTIST PHILHARMONIC appreciated. Orchestra Development Program (Apo-DP) Summer Festival will feature the Adventist Chamber Orchestra with Ingrid Santamaria as piano alinda Orosa. It will feature Mozart's soloist on May 21, 4 p.m., at the Equitable-PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago

Hall, Makati Avenue. The event is free to the public. Donations to the Apo-DP and Adventist University of the Philippines College of Music building will be

The program pays tribute to Maestra Rizalina Buenaventura, "our national treasure," according to Ros-" Il Re Pastore Overture" (celebrating Mozart's 250th Birth Year), National Artist Antonino Buenaventura's "Pandango sa Ilaw," "Awit ng Kabataan," "Philippines Triumphant," and "Ode to the Republic," and Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 in E Minor.

Conductor is Jonathan Arevalo

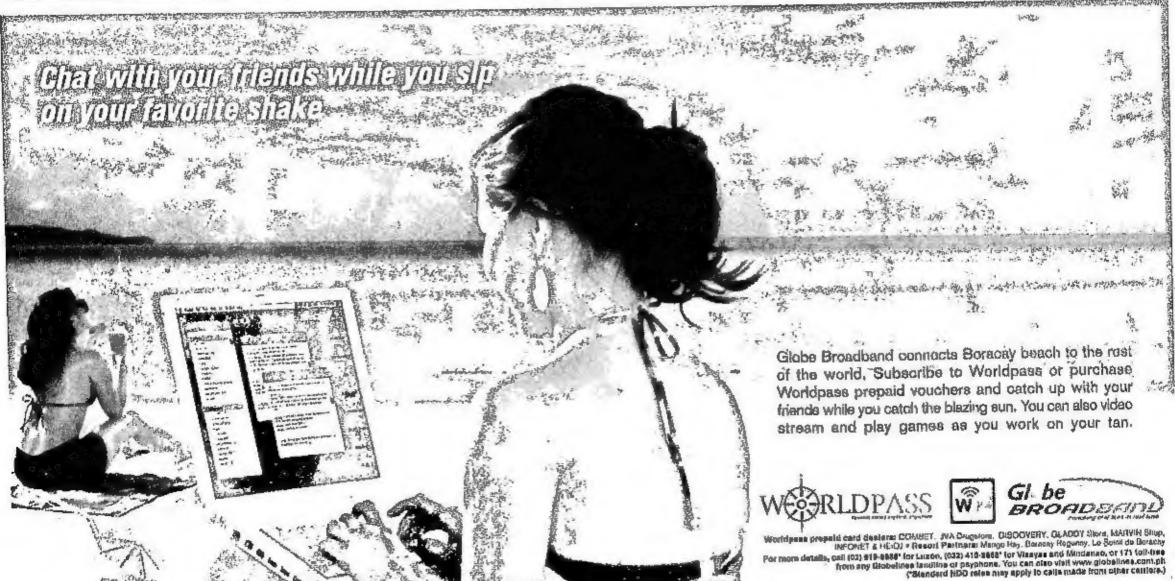
Through a venue grant from the Manila Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank, the Adventist University of the Philippines is gathering musicians around Luzon toward realizing its mission to form the Adventist Philharmonic Orchestra.

For ticket reservations, call 0921-2172617.



PARTICIPANTS in the summer music camp





Celebrate at SM Supermalls

"If you look the same, join the game!" That's the invitation SM Supermalls is extending to all moms and daughters as part of its Mother's Day celebrations simultaneously held in all 23 SM branches nationwide during the month of May 2006!

The SM Supermalis Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Contest is open to all mother and daughter pairs who bear a close physical resemblance to each other. A complete head-to-toe beauty make-over awaits the top finalists for each mall with the three (3) Grand Finalist Mother and



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M(OHEIERASID) mall-highlights

SM METRO MANILA MALLS

- SM Megamall: Pictorial of Finalists
- SM City San Lazaro: Rehearsal Briefing
MCMMWY Make-over Fair
- SM City Manila and SM Supercenter
Valenzuela: Mini Show
- SM City Sta Mesa and SM City San Lazaro:
Mini Show
- SM City Sucat: Talent Presentation
- SM City Fairview: Mother & Daughter
Look-Afike Grand Finals

SM CITY BATANGAS

Photo session of Mother and Daughter May 11

Finalists
Display of Mother and Daughter
Finalists' photos
Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand
Finals and Fashion Show
Mother and Daughter Finalist

Mother and sessions Make-over sessions Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest May 15-21

SM CITY BAGUIO

Photo session of Mother and Daughter

Finalists
"Just Like Momi" Display of Mother & Daughter Finalists' photos
"Looks Like Mom. Looks Like Mel"
Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals and Fashion Show
Mother & Daughter Finalist Make-over

sessions Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contast

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

Presentation of candidates for Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Contest Photo session with photo shop tenants Make-over cio Salon Tenants Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals with Jolina Magdangal Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest

SM CITY LUCENA

- Unveiling of the Photo Booth (Mother and Daughter Look-Allie Entries)
- Super Monts... Corgeous Monts: A Fashion Show
- Mother and Daughter's Vanity Day
- Mother and Daughter Look-Allie
Photo Booth
- Photo Booth
- Mother Booth
-

Sing-ala-Mega Grand Finals (nd Mother

And the Stants Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Crand Finals Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest May 14 May 15-21

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

Photo sessions of Mother & Daughter May 11

Photo sessions of House Halists'
 Phalists
 Display of Mother & Daughter Finalists'
 photos
 Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest Grand Finals and Fashion Show
 Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest

May

SM CITY MARILAO

- Display of Mother & Daughter Finalists' May 12-14

photos Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals Spongebob and Patrick Fish Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Cornest

SM CITY PAMPANGA

 Display of photos for Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest, (Ile-up with Globe, Smart, Talk NText and Touch Mobile for the Texter's Choke Award)
 Hnalists mail tour with photo session May 12

May 13

Finalists mail tour with phous session & make-over Tribute to Morns with Tang Julce Dranks featuring SIS of GMA7 Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals Mother and Daughter Fashion Show Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Comest May 14

May 13 May 13 May 14

- Photo gallery of Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Contex Finalists Mother's Day Fair Rocksteddy mail tour Tollits mail tour Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals Announcement of winners Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest May 15-21

SM CITY CEBU

Mother's Day Fair Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest May 13 May 14 May 15-21

SM CITY ILOILO

Photo display of Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Contest Finalists "Guess How Much I Love You", Wall of

Creetings
- Morns Make-over Fair
- Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Hmilt
- Photo gallery of 3 winning pairs of
Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest

15-21

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

 Pamper your Mom
 Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals
 Photo gatiery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest May 9-10 May 14 May 15-21

SM CITY DAVAO

May 14

 Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Grand Finals
 Missis Philippines Search
 Monses and Kids Fun Fair do Mom's Radio (A fun set of educational activities for mothers and their kids)
 Photo galliery of 3 winning pairs of Mother & Daughter Look-Alike Contest
 Beautiful Mon 2006 - Beauty Pageant for mothers. May 15-21 May 30 for mothers.

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